

My name is Jack Bennett originally from Fairbanks, Alaska and I am writing in support of HB172 commercialization of Industrial Hemp, (IH). I am building a model home using IH insulation material to present to rural Alaska as a solution to affordable housing and solving the rising cost of energy living in the bush.

55% of the world energy consumption is construction waste related. IH as a construction material has a zero footprint. Sustainability really does save. The high insulation value lowers heating costs up to 70%, annually. Europe has been building VOC FREE homes for the last 20 years with hemp insulation. Lime-based hemp insulation replaces drywall, OSB plywood, house wrap, and fiberglass insulation that releases flame-retardants impacting people and planet. The lifecycle of these homes is over a hundred years, and are fire, mildew, moisture, and termite resistant. Worldwide marketing data estimates green building as a 200 billion dollar industry. There is a shortage of 6000 units in rural AK. My team and I will work to start a pilot home in rural AK educating communities on how to build with this material. 2½ acres of IH can be harvested in 100 days and supplies enough building material for a 1000sqft shell in 8 days.

A year ago, I didn't know what IH was. I thought it was rope. I didn't realize it had 25,000 industry applications. As a homeowner, I was looking at doing my part to lower my carbon footprint and build affordably. I studied the problems in rural AK and developed rapport with IH industries from all over the world to bring ecological and economical solutions to my state of Alaska. I have presented IH as a solution to affordable housing to 200 tribes represented at the Alaska Rural Energy Conference. I have presented all over the state of Alaska to venues such as, Prince William Sound Citizens Advisory in Cordova, Alaska Regional Response Team in Nome as a green response technology used in oil spills and bioremediation. These plant fiber technologies replace polypropylene products and chemical dispersants used in oil spills. I was able to present IH agriculture as an alternative cash crop to Governor Walker who invited me to meet with his senior advisor about specific business models for AK. US Senator Lisa Murkowski helped me set up the first workshop with the Oil Response Teams that was held at Kenai Economic Development Center.

98% percent of the produce is shipped to rural AK from the Port of Anchorage. On soil-less hemp growing mediums, a community can grow 80 varieties of produce under energy efficient LEDs. As a service to community and passionate about bringing solutions, I am working with rural AK to start their own green house and farm in a container with aquaponics for food security.

I am currently setting up a factory to supply green response technology to oil and chemical up teams throughout AK. My company has the ability to process 40 million pounds of IH annually using machinery called a decorticator. It strips the fiber from the woody core of the plant. All of the plant's output has value added products, from cosmetics, to clothes, to biomass, medicine, foods, construction material, and bio composites. I will work to bring a decorticator to AK once HB172 passes. I will work with the Alaska farmer to collect the material, enabling jobs in AK. IH in the US

is a 600 million dollar industry, and an estimated 1 billion by 2020. Last year was America's first commercial hemp harvest along with the 30 states that passed their own rules and regulations on IH. Last year eliminated importing costs by 30%-40%. The IH food industry is a \$280 million dollar industry in the US. All of our company's fiber is sold out to its automotive partner, using bio composites. Hemp plastics are stronger than fiberglass on a boat and more flexible and lighter than an Indy 500 racecar. At the end of the car's life cycle the ingredients are 100% biodegradable. Tesla is working on the next super capacitor to double the life of the car's battery using hemp thermal resins known as graphene. The age of graphene is the future of energy storage powered by hemp. Replacing microchip boards and silicone. Lastly, give Alaskan farmers the freedom to grow and help turn the fiscal crisis around. I support the passage of HB172 commercialization of Industrial Hemp for the future of Alaska.

My Hand,  
Jack Bennett, Homer, AK  
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