

**SB**

**8**

<TARGET><BILL>SB 8</BILL><SUBJECT>SB  
8</SUBJECT><COMM>SFIN29</COMM></TARGET>

# ALASKA STATE LEGISLATURE

*While in Session*  
State Capitol  
Juneau, AK 99801  
(907) 465-3704  
Fax: (907) 465-2529



*While in Anchorage*  
716 W. 4<sup>th</sup> Ave  
Anchorage, AK  
(907) 269-0169  
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SENATOR JOHNNY ELLIS

## **SB 8: Alaska Grown Industrial Hemp Act**

Industrial hemp is an ancient and versatile crop that was commonly grown in the United States until the 1930s. In fact, the first U.S. flag and early blue jeans were both made from hemp fiber. Recent changes to federal law give states more freedom to research and farm industrial hemp. This legislation defines industrial hemp, requires growers be licensed with the state and allows an individual to plant, grow, harvest, possess, sell, or buy industrial hemp if the industrial hemp does not contain more than .3% tetrahydrocannabinol.

Industrial hemp should not be confused with marijuana or varieties of the *Cannabis* plant that have high levels of THC (delta-9 tetrahydrocannabinol). Industrial hemp refers to varieties of the *Cannabis* plant that have a low level of THC, for example, in Kentucky an industrial hemp plant is defined as having a THC concentration of less than 1%. In this legislation and in Montana, Maine, and other states it is defined as a concentration of less than .3% THC.

The spectrum of possible hemp products is impressive. Besides traditional paper or fiber products, industrial hemp can be used for building materials such as carpet and insulation and even be made into "hempcrete." Hemp oil can be used for plastics, paint, and cosmetic and pharmaceutical applications.

Due to hemp's illegal status, little research has been done on the viability of arctic hemp crops in Alaska. However, British Columbia, Ontario and Manitoba have thriving commercial hemp operations and Canadian studies offer promise for the production of industrial hemp in northern climates.

Allowing farmers the freedom to farm this versatile and profitable agricultural commodity is a bipartisan issue. For years, Representative Ron Paul (R-TX) pushed to allow the farming of industrial hemp. His first bill in 2005 had 11 co-sponsors and his last bill in 2011 had 37 co-sponsors from both sides of the aisle.

More recently, Senators Mitch McConnell(R-KY) and Rand Paul(R-KY) championed a provision included in the 2014 Farm Bill that would allow institutions of higher education and State Departments of Agriculture to grow or cultivate industrial hemp. The most recent federal spending bill also included a bipartisan amendment that prohibits the DEA from blocking implementation of the federal law allowing hemp cultivation for academic and agricultural research purposes in states that allow it.

According to the National Conference of State Legislatures (NCSL), 27 states currently have laws to allow cultivation of hemp for commercial, research or pilot programs. In 2000, the NCSL adopted a policy in support of the reintroduction of industrial hemp into American agriculture.

Currently the U.S. imports around \$2 billion annually in hemp products from Canada and China. States that lead on allowing their farmers and entrepreneurs to explore the free market potential of industrial hemp will have the opportunity to be at the forefront of an entirely new industry that could help bolster our farm communities and the Alaskan economy.

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SENATOR

JOHNNY ELLIS

## **Senate Bill 8 – Sectional Analysis**

**Section 1** defines industrial hemp means all parts and varieties of the plant *Cannabis sativa* L. containing not more than 0.3 percent tetrahydrocannabinol (THC)

**Section 2** adds a new subsection 11.71.090 (c) creates an affirmative defense to prosecution under AS 1171.030-11.71.16 for a grower of industrial hemp as defined in the bill.

**Section 3** adds a new subsection under 17.38.200 (j)  
An individual manufacturing, delivering, or displaying industrial hemp is not required to apply for licensure or be licensed under this section.

# Fiscal Note

State of Alaska  
2016 Legislative Session

Bill Version:	CSSB 8(JUD)
Fiscal Note Number:	2 **CORRECTED**
(S) Publish Date:	4/1/2016

Identifier: SB008CS(JUD)-DNR-PMC-3-30-16  
 Title: INDUSTRIAL HEMP PRODUCTION LICENSES  
 Sponsor: ELLIS  
 Requester: Senate Judiciary

Department: Department of Natural Resources  
 Appropriation: Agriculture  
 Allocation: North Latitude Plant Material Center  
 OMB Component Number: 2204

**Expenditures/Revenues**

Note: Amounts do not include inflation unless otherwise noted below. (Thousands of Dollars)

	FY2017	Included in	Out-Year Cost Estimates				
	Appropriation Requested	Governor's FY2017 Request	FY 2018	FY 2019	FY 2020	FY 2021	FY 2022
<b>OPERATING EXPENDITURES</b>	<b>FY 2017</b>	<b>FY 2017</b>					
Personal Services							
Travel							
Services							
Commodities							
Capital Outlay							
Grants & Benefits							
Miscellaneous							
<b>Total Operating</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>0.0</b>

**Fund Source (Operating Only)**

None							
<b>Total</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>0.0</b>

**Positions**

Full-time							
Part-time							
Temporary							

**Change in Revenues**

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**Estimated SUPPLEMENTAL (FY2016) cost:** 0.0 *(separate supplemental appropriation required)*  
*(discuss reasons and fund source(s) in analysis section)*

**Estimated CAPITAL (FY2017) cost:** 0.0 *(separate capital appropriation required)*  
*(discuss reasons and fund source(s) in analysis section)*

**ASSOCIATED REGULATIONS**

Does the bill direct, or will the bill result in, regulation changes adopted by your agency? No  
 If yes, by what date are the regulations to be adopted, amended or repealed? N/A

**Why this fiscal note differs from previous version:**

Updated to correspond with CS version.

Prepared By:	Arthur Keyes, Director	Phone:	(907)761-3867
Division:	Agriculture	Date:	03/30/2016 12:00 AM
Approved By:	Marty Rutherford, Acting Commissioner	Date:	03/30/16
Agency:	Natural Resources		

FISCAL NOTE ANALYSIS

STATE OF ALASKA  
2016 LEGISLATIVE SESSION

Analysis

Department of Natural Resources does not anticipate any fiscal impact with this legislation.

[NAIHC.org](http://NAIHC.org) , San Diego, Calif., January 13, 2015 - This week American Farm Bureau members voiced their strong support for growing industrial hemp.

Farm Bureau's 355 voting delegates representing every crop and livestock sector in the United States voted 246 to 96 in favor of "the production, processing, commercialization and utilization of industrial hemp." Speaking at the leading U.S. farm organization's 96<sup>th</sup> annual convention, Illinois Farm Bureau delegate Chad Schutz said that after having "been asleep for 80 years," it's time to start growing industrial hemp again to "revitalize it in the U.S."

Madison County Illinois Farm Bureau President Steve Koeller calls it a major achievement that "after 15 years," Illinois' initiative has led Farm Bureau nationally to approve industrial hemp "as stand-alone policy." He's hopeful Farm Bureau's support will lead Congress to remove the remaining barriers to growing hemp in the U.S.

At [last year's Farm Bureau convention in Texas](#) , members voted to oppose the federal government's "classification of industrial hemp as a controlled substance." Under current federal law, non-drug industrial hemp remains banned because it is related to marijuana. The ban remains in force despite 2014 federal legislation which authorized states to create regulated programs to grow industrial hemp for research purposes. Last year's Farm Bureau vote adopted as national policy a resolution proposed by the Indiana Farm Bureau to legalize industrial hemp as a crop.

At the 2014 meeting, Indiana Farm Bureau Policy Advisor Kyle Cline explained that legalizing industrial hemp is important "because of the opportunity that it provides some farmers to diversify their operations and share in a new market opportunity. At a time when small farms are innovating and diversifying to remain competitive, we should provide every opportunity to increase farm incomes and allow the next generation the ability to continue living off the land as their families have for generations."

Cline said "Industrial hemp is one such opportunity that may work for some farmers in certain regions. Furthermore, industrial hemp will allow the U.S. farmer to share in income that is currently going overseas. Right now, it is legal to import hemp but illegal to produce it. Therefore, there is no opportunity currently to share in the profit."

Farm Bureau's support for industrial hemp follows support pledged earlier by other farm organizations.

In 2013, the National Association of State Departments of Agriculture stated that:

"NASDA supports revisions to the federal rules and regulations authorizing commercial production of industrial hemp."

"NASDA urges the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA), the Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA) and the Office of National Drug Control Policy (ONDCP) to collaboratively develop and adopt an official definition of industrial hemp that comports with definitions currently used by countries producing hemp. NASDA also urges Congress to statutorily distinguish between industrial hemp and marijuana and to direct the DEA to revise its policies to allow USDA to establish a regulatory program that allows the development of domestic industrial hemp production by American farmers and manufacturers."

In 2009, National Grange voted to support hemp, stating that it "supports research, production, processing and marketing of industrial hemp as a viable agricultural activity."

National Farmers Union passed their first pro-hemp resolution at their 2010 convention. The policy was updated at their 2013 convention and stated that the NFU supports:

"Urging the president, attorney general and Congress to direct the U.S. Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA) to reclassify industrial hemp as a non-controlled substance and adopt policy to allow American farmers to grow industrial hemp under state law without affecting eligibility for USDA benefits."

The Illinois Farm Bureau is another supporter, stating as policy that:

“We encourage research of market potential for the production and processing of industrial hemp. We will aggressively pursue actions necessary to allow research on the production of industrial hemp and require the Drug Enforcement Agency (DEA) to issue permits to U.S. farmers allowing the production of this crop.”

# 30

# NATIONAL CONFERENCE OF STATE LEGISLATURES

## INDUSTRIAL HEMP POLICY - ADOPTED DECEMBER 15, 2000

**COMMITTEE: AGRICULTURE AND INTERNATIONAL TRADE**

**POLICY: CULTIVATION AND MARKETING OF INDUSTRIAL HEMP**

1           Eleven states have passed bills or resolutions supporting the re-introduction of  
2 industrial hemp into American agriculture (Arkansas, California, Hawaii, Illinois,  
3 Maryland, Minnesota, Montana, New Mexico, North Dakota, Vermont and Virginia)  
4 since 1996. Over 30 countries, including all European Union nations and Canada,  
5 currently permit and support the cultivation and production of industrial hemp and the  
6 marketing of products made from same.

7           Today, industrial hemp products are being sold legally and with profit in the US,  
8 with an estimated \$50 million domestic market. Industrial hemp has a multitude of  
9 commercial applications, including food for animal and human consumption, oils and  
10 creams for personal care products, textile fiber, building materials and composites,  
11 paper, fuel and industrial lubricants, and many other uses. Domestic companies such  
12 as Ralph Lauren, Daimler Chrysler, The Body Shop and Kimberly Clark are producing  
13 hemp-based clothing, personal care products, car parts and paper for sale to  
14 American consumers. Demand for these products has resulted in the US becoming  
15 the largest importer of foreign-grown hemp-based materials in the world. Worldwide  
16 hemp production has risen 24% during 1994-98 to supply this market (does not  
17 include Canadian acreage). Federal barriers to the cultivation and production of  
18 industrial hemp prevent American farmers from profiting from this agriculturally based  
19 international market.

20           The National Conference of State Legislatures (NCSL) strongly urges the U.S.  
21 Department of Agriculture (USDA), the Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA) and  
22 the Office of National Drug Control Policy (ONDCP) to collaboratively develop and  
23 adopt an official definition of industrial hemp, as per those nations currently producing

24 hemp. NCSL also strongly urges Congress to amend US Code sections 21 U.S.C.  
25 Sec. 812 (10) and 21 U.S.C. Sec.. 841 to distinguish between industrial hemp and  
26 marijuana varieties of cannabis as they relate to production, possession, delivery, and  
27 intended use.

28 NCSL requests the USDA and the DEA to review the procedures under which  
29 their Canadian counterparts are authorized to sanction the commercial development  
30 of industrial hemp. NCSL also strongly urges Congress statutorily to direct the DEA to  
31 revise its policies to be less restrictive and to allow states to establish state regulatory  
32 programs, thus fostering the development of domestic hemp production by American  
33 farmers and manufacturers.

34 Toward this end, a copy of this resolution will be sent to members of the U.S.  
35 Congress, the U.S. Secretary of Agriculture, Acting DEA director Donnie R. Marshall,  
36 the office of ONDCP, and the President of the United States.

The Colorado Springs  
**BUSINESS JOURNAL**

**ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT**

## **Industrial hemp could jump-start economy**



**By Amy Gillentine Sweet**

Posted on November 30, 2012

The Declaration of Independence was written on paper made of hemp. During World War II the federal government launched a “Hemp for Victory” campaign urging people to grow the plant to make ropes for the military.

Until the late 1800s, nearly all cloth and virtually all paper were made from hemp. It was so valuable that hemp could be used as money.

But that was then.

Today, industrial hemp isn't strictly illegal, but farmers must get a permit from the Drug Enforcement Agency to grow it — something that's proven impossible. Colorado and Washington have joined nine other states in legalizing the crop. But despite the passage of Amendment 64, the DEA still must give permission, even though states issue their own permits.

Colorado farmers could be able to grow industrial hemp as early as next summer, with state permits alone. It's unclear if the federal government would raid industrial hemp farms operating without DEA permission.

**NEEDLESS PERMITS**

Supporters say that it makes no sense to require federal permits. Hemp is harmless, they say, and can benefit the economy and environment. Hemp can remediate soil damage, be spun into clothing and bracelets, help create soaps and lotions, and even absorb tons of carbon dioxide a year. Currently, U.S. imports of hemp from Canada and China equal around \$2 billion annually.

But the U.S. Department of Agriculture is skeptical, believing the market for hemp is “small and thin, and growing it in the U.S. would lead to oversupply.” However, more recent Canadian studies show a positive market outlook for that country’s crop, given growing consumer demand and low management requirements.

Hemp doesn’t require herbicides or pesticides, for example, and can be harvested up to four times a year.

The Canadian report is echoed by U.S. companies that import hemp for products. Dr. Bronner’s Magic Soap, an all-natural, organic soap, spent \$175,000 on the campaigns to legalize marijuana and hemp in Washington and Colorado. The company says Amendment 64 would “unlock the potential for industrial hemp to bolster the American economy,” said David Bronner, president of the company.

“Overall the market for hemp fiber and seed products at retail in the U.S. is over \$450 million annually,” he said. “Sadly, because hemp has been caught up in this nation’s irrational marijuana prohibition laws, not a penny of that money goes to farmers in the U.S.”

Bronner imports more than 20 tons of hemp oil annually from Canada to make his family’s organic body-care products.

America is the only industrialized nation in the world that prohibits the commercial production of hemp, despite the fact that more hemp fiber, seed and oil are imported by the U.S. than any other country.

Supporters are quick to note that hemp is different than marijuana. Although hemp and marijuana are the same species of plant, hemp has no THC, the psychoactive chemical in marijuana.

“Allowing the legal cultivation and processing of industrial hemp would provide Colorado and Washington with an infusion of new jobs and tax revenue in the near term,” said Michael Bronner, vice president of the company. “Our company is ready to invest in developing hemp production in the U.S.”

And the Bronners will have a chance to follow up on that promise — at least in Colorado. The Legislature, which passed a pro-hemp bill during the 2012 session, has to issue guidance to the Department of Revenue, which is also responsible for licensing medical marijuana grows.

Hemp won't be a new subject for the Legislature, said Michael Slaugh, membership director for the Colorado Springs Medical Cannabis Council. Last year, a bill to study hemp as a means to remediate damaged soil received widespread bipartisan support.

“They're going to test it in Rocky Flats,” he said of the former weapons storage facility west of Denver, “because it can remove chemicals from soil, and it can be used to replenish damaged soil.”

Slaugh believes that industrial hemp could jump-start the state's economy, and be used to offset carbon dioxide from power plants and cars. In fact, he says hemp can be used to make about 25,000 different products — fabrics and textiles, yarns, paper, carpeting, construction and insulation materials, auto parts, animal bedding, foods, beverages, cosmetics and pharmaceuticals.

And that's not all.

“It absorbs more carbon dioxide than natural-growth forests,” Slauch said. “It makes cheaper paper, cheaper cloth — because it can be harvested four times a year, and forests take longer to recover.”

## **POSSIBLE FIRE MITIGATION**

Slauch thinks hemp could be a temporary answer for the burn scar from the Waldo Canyon fire. He said the plant could be used to keep soil from eroding and to remediate damaged soil to make way for trees.

He also thinks farmers are ready to grow the crop.

“Some older farmers might still remember when hemp was grown,” he said. “It’s eco-friendly. It works as food, fiber and fuel.”

The USDA, however, dismissed the idea years ago.

According to a 2000 report considering the market potential of the plant, the USDA says it doesn’t make sense to legalize it — despite interest from 19 states that considered it in the 1990s when Canada decriminalized hemp production.

“There’s some question as to whether hemp fibers can be profitably processed in the United States,” the report says. “Technologies used to process hemp fiber have not changed much, and they require capital investment and knowledge workers.”

## **CONFLICTING CONCLUSIONS**

The USDA believes that the U.S. hemp producers cannot compete against major suppliers such as China, Hungary, Poland and Romania.

“In addition, given the thinness of the current U.S. hemp fiber market, any overproduction could lead to lower prices and lost profitability,” the report said. “The U.S. market for hemp fibers is, and likely will remain, a small, thin market. Changes in

price or quantity could be more disruptive and have a greater adverse impact on market participants that would be the case in a larger market.”

But the Congressional Research Service believes the time is ripe for hemp production — saying in a 2012 report that the market has proven profitable.

“Given the existence of these small-scale, but profitable, niche markets for a wide array of industrial and consumer products, commercial hemp industry in the United States could provide opportunities as an economically viable alternative crop for some U.S. growers,” the report said.

All that is beside the point, say supporters like the nonprofit group Vote Hemp.

“The market for industrial hemp products is growing rapidly,” the group says on its website. “But even if it were not, when has a crop ever been outlawed simply because government agencies thought it would be unprofitable to grow?”

## **HEMP BY THE NUMBERS**

**25,000** – Number of products with hemp in them.

**\$2 billion** – Estimated value of imported hemp.

**\$450 million** – Estimated value of hemp industry in the United States.

**11** – Number of states that have legalized industrial hemp production.

**0** – Number of hemp farms that have received permission from the Drug Enforcement Agency to grow hemp in the United States.

# POLITICO

**POLITICO** *Pro*

## **Mitch McConnell, Rand Paul push legalizing hemp growth**

It's a states' rights and economic growth issue, they argue.

By **JENNY HOPKINSON** | 2/5/15 5:38 AM EST



AP Photo

Forget legalizing pot: Two of the most powerful Republicans in the Senate believe there's a much stronger chance to legalize growing hemp in the U.S., opening up an entirely new market for crops, health food, oil, shirts, towels and even dog toys.

Kentucky's Mitch McConnell, Rand Paul and Rep. Thomas Massie are pushing legislation in both chambers of Congress that would remove the less-potent member of the cannabis family from the federal list of controlled substances, allowing its return to America's farmland after more than 40 years.

It's a states' rights and economic growth issue, the Republican lawmakers argue.

Legalizing hemp would create jobs.

“People used to downplay the number of jobs industrial hemp might create and say, ‘Well it’s a few thousand jobs and a couple million in commerce,’” Massie said. But all told, legalizing the crop has the potential to create 10 times as many jobs “as the Keystone XL pipeline will create 10 years from now.”

Hemp legalization legislation has been considered in Congress since 2005, when then-Rep. Ron Paul (R-Texas) pushed the issue. But the current bills have champions in positions of power, including the Senate majority leader and a potential White House contender.



### **Paul to oppose Lynch for attorney general**

MIKE ALLEN and SEUNG MIN KIM

They also have bipartisan support.

The Industrial Hemp Farming Act, introduced by Sen. Ron Wyden (D-Ore.) on Jan. 8 with McConnell, Paul and Oregon’s other Democratic senator, Jeff Merkley, as co-sponsors, now awaits action in the Judiciary Committee. The companion bill Massie introduced in the House on Jan. 26 is before the Energy and Commerce Committee and has 50 bipartisan co-sponsors.

Given the focus on jobs and McConnell’s support, “there is a really good chance of passing [legalization legislation] this year,” Massie said. “[McConnell’s] promotion to majority leader ... is important to this effort.”

Not everyone from Kentucky is on board.

Rep. Hal Rogers, chairman of the House Appropriations Committee, agrees with the law enforcement community that legalizing hemp would be bad news, primarily because a field of hemp would be virtually indistinguishable from marijuana, which is illegal for recreational use in 46 states.

Hemp and marijuana are both members of the cannabis family. While pot plants are bred for the buds and flowers, hemp is grown to be tall and thin with few branches or leaves to produce a lot of fiber, according to the North American Industrial Hemp

Council.



## Paul decades-long member of group opposed to forced vaccines

GABRIEL DEBENEDETTI

The main difference is the plants' chemical makeup: Industrial hemp contains less than 0.3 percent tetrahydrocannabinol, or THC, the mind-altering chemical marijuana contains in the 3 percent to 20 percent range.

However, Bob Bushman, president of the National Narcotics Officers' Associations Coalition, says there's no way for a law enforcement officer to tell the difference, and that's why his group opposes hemp legalization. Local law enforcement organizations are lobbying lawmakers in states where legalization is being considered to block the measures.

"I can't look at a plant and tell you that is marijuana or it's hemp ... that's a scientific determination," he said.

"The confusion and potential commingling lends itself to an easier path for illegal marijuana growth across the country," Rogers said. What's more, he added, there appears little evidence to date that hemp will be an economic boon when the Department of Agriculture describes the hemp market as "small [and] thin."

But imported hemp products — because there's no other way to get them in the United States — represented a \$580 million market in 2013 with double-digit annual growth, according to Eric Steenstra, executive director of the Hemp Industry Association. All kinds of jobs, from positions in agriculture to manufacturing would be created in the United States if it were legalized here, he said.



## McConnell: 'I'm a big fan of vaccinations'

BURGESS EVERETT

Hemp is already legal to produce in at least 30 countries, including Canada. If it becomes legal to cultivate in the U.S., production could reach 100,000 acres or more nationwide in the next decade, Steenstra predicted.

That's far less than the more than 80 million acres currently devoted to corn in the United States, the similar acreage taken up by soybeans or the 56 million acres planted with wheat. But in 40 years, hemp could become a crop of the same caliber, Steenstra said.

Companies that sell hemp products in the United States are "pretty excited about their future," said Jane Wilson, director of program development for the American Herbal Products Association. "It fits in well with the whole interest in natural products."

Fortunately for the champions of hemp, federal legalization would not come with any spending requirements for the government, so it wouldn't need to go in front of Rogers' committee to gain passage.

But Rogers isn't the only lawmaker supporters are having a difficult time persuading. Massie, now busy making the case for House leadership to get behind his bill, admits struggling more to win over members of his own party.



### **GOP senators block Cruz move to hold up Lynch vote**

SEUNG MIN KIM and BURGESS EVERETT

"It's harder to get a majority of Republicans to sign on to industrial hemp than it is to get Democrats," Massie said. "There's a stigma attached to it, and Republicans don't want to be seen as weak on the war on drugs."

Hemp is a tough crop, well-suited for Kentucky's climate and landscape, possibly even in the state's mountainous eastern region, which lacks rich soil. And in a place where almost 20 percent of people live below the poverty line and employment opportunities in coal mining and tobacco are on the decline, the need for a robust new industry is critical.

Kentucky was the largest producer of hemp prior to the Civil War, according to the state's department of agriculture, growing more than 90 percent of the entire U.S. crop. But production declined in the 1900s as the government moved to tax the crop due to its close association with marijuana.

Congress banned growing hemp because of larger concerns about cannabis through

the Controlled Substances Act in the early 1970s.

Paul said he was approached by a grass-roots organization about the issue during his 2010 run for Senate.

“The thought was maybe we could take some of this [former tobacco] farmland and replace it and also take some of this land that is less productive,” like reclaimed mining land, and cultivate hemp, Paul said, and create jobs in the process.

Paul pitched the hemp issue to James Comer, Kentucky’s new agriculture commissioner, soon after both took office. Comer said it checked a lot of boxes: It would help small farmers replace tobacco as a cash crop and had tea party backing.

Comer, a 42-year-old cattle and timber farmer now running for governor, said he recognized the legalization of hemp “was a good issue for me.” He succeeded in leading the state to pass a bill in 2013, largely with the help of Paul, Massie, Democratic Rep. John Yarmuth and others, that required the agriculture department to set up a licensing program for farmers who want to grow industrial hemp.

Now, Kentucky is one of about 20 states to have legalized the cultivation of the crop. A handful of others are expected to consider it during this legislative session, though without federal legalization, state laws are largely symbolic.

Efforts to legalize hemp in Kentucky were still in flux in early 2013, when Paul showed up for a hearing in Frankfort wearing a hemp shirt he said he bought from Canada.

“Basically we are exporting our profit to Canada” every time Kentuckians buy hemp clothes or food products, Paul told state lawmakers. “I see no reason we wouldn’t want to be a leader on this.”

While McConnell has been quieter about legalizing hemp, the then-minority leader became more involved in early 2013. In a statement two years ago, he said that, after discussions with Paul and Comer, “I am convinced that allowing its production will be a positive development for Kentucky’s farm families and economy.”

McConnell then went to work, scoring a provision in the 2014 Farm Bill that allows states to set up pilot programs to research the crop, carefully selecting members of

the legislation's conference committee he knew would support it. He also co-sponsored a hemp legalization bill with Wyden and Paul in early 2013 that never made it out of Judiciary.

Al Cross, the director of the Institute for Rural Journalism and Community Issues at the University of Kentucky, however, believes McConnell really became a supporter of hemp legalization when he realized the position was popular among Kentuckians and it could help him going into the 2014 election.

The six-term senator handily defeated his Republican primary foe, Matt Bevin, but the race against his Democratic challenger — Alison Lundergan Grimes — looked tight in the early going.

"I think it was a way for McConnell to show some solidarity with Paul and give him a slightly different image," Cross said. "McConnell has this image of being a very buttoned-up, business-oriented Republican who just sticks to the normal playbook. And going for industrial hemp, he was able to show that he's able to think outside the box, change his stripes. And it's probably not coincidental that he had a primary, his first real primary ever.

"And he was challenged by a guy more from the libertarian side of things."

Massie excuses McConnell's early silence, saying when you are the party leader, "you kind of have to balance the desires of your district and the needs of your district with the entire conference."

*Jonathon Topaz contributed to this report.*

1 **CITY OF NORTH POLE**

2 **RESOLUTION 16-02**

3 **A RESOLUTION IN SUPPORT OF SENATE BILL 8, AN ACT RELATING TO THE**  
4 **REGULATION AND PRODUCTION OF INDUSTRIAL HEMP**

5 **WHEREAS**, Alaska State Senator Johnny Ellis has introduced SB 8, An Act relating to the  
6 regulation and production of industrial hemp, known as the Alaska Grown Industrial Hemp Act;  
7 and

8 **WHEREAS**, a copy of the Senator Ellis' sponsor statement is attached to this resolution; and

9 **WHEREAS**, industrial hemp should not be confused with marijuana or varieties of the  
10 Cannabis plant that have high levels of THC (delta-9 tetrahydrocannabinol); industrial hemp  
11 refers to varieties of the Cannabis plant that have a low level of THC; and

12 **WHEREAS**, due to hemp's illegal status, little research has been done on the viability of hemp  
13 crops in Alaska, but British Columbia, Ontario and Manitoba have thriving commercial hemp  
14 operations, and Canadian studies offer promise for the production of hemp in Alaska; and

15 **WHEREAS**, the United States currently imports around \$2 billion in hemp products annually  
16 from Canada and China; and

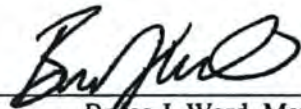
17 **WHEREAS**, given the state of Alaska's economy and the need to diversify it, Alaska should be  
18 at the forefront of this potential new industry;

19 **NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED**, that the North Pole City Council urges the Alaska  
20 State Legislature to pass Senate Bill 8, the Alaska Grown Industrial Hemp Act.

21  
22 **NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED**, that the North Pole City Council urges the Alaska  
23 State Legislature to pass Senate Bill 8, the Alaska Grown Industrial Hemp Act.

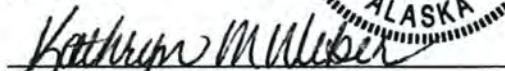
24 **PASSED AND APPROVED** by a duly constituted quorum of the North Pole City Council this  
25 21<sup>st</sup> day of March, 2016.





Bryce J. Ward, Mayor

29 ATTEST:

30   
31 Kathryn M. Weber, MMC  
32 North Pole City Clerk  
33

PASSED Yes: 5- Dawson, Claus, McGhee, Smith, Ward No: 1 - Holm Absent: 1 - McCarthy
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**RESOLUTION NO. 4722**

**A RESOLUTION IN SUPPORT OF SENATE BILL 8 AN ACT RELATING TO  
THE REGULATION AND PRODUCTION OF INDUSTRIAL HEMP**

**WHEREAS**, Alaska State Senator Johnny Ellis has introduced SB 8, An Act relating to the regulation and production of industrial hemp, known as the Alaska Grown Industrial Hemp Act; and

**WHEREAS**, a copy of the Senator Ellis' sponsor statement is attached to this resolution; and

**WHEREAS**, industrial hemp should not be confused with marijuana or varieties of the Cannabis plant that have high levels of THC (delta-9 tetrahydrocannabinol); industrial hemp refers to varieties of the Cannabis plant that have a low level of THC; and


**WHEREAS**, due to hemp's illegal status, little research has been done on the viability of hemp crops in Alaska, but British Columbia, Ontario and Manitoba have thriving commercial hemp operations, and Canadian studies offer promise for the production of hemp in Alaska; and

**WHEREAS**, the United States currently imports around \$2 billion in hemp products annually from Canada and China; and

**WHEREAS**, given the state of Alaska's economy and the need to diversify it, Alaska should be at the forefront of this potential new industry;

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** that the City Council urges the Alaska State Legislature to pass Senate Bill 8, the Alaska Grown Industrial Hemp Act.

**PASSED and APPROVED** this 7th Day of March 2016.

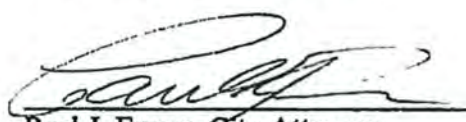
  
\_\_\_\_\_  
John Eberhart, Mayor

AYES: Cleworth, Pruhs, Walley, Huntington, Matherly, Gatewood  
NAYS: None  
ABSENT: None  
APPROVED: March 7, 2016

ATTEST:

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
D. Danyelle Snider, CMC, City Clerk

APPROVED AS TO FORM:

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Paul J. Ewers, City Attorney

Introduced by: Council Member Hilling  
Date: November 14, 2011

**RESOLUTION NO. 4497, As Amended**

**A RESOLUTION URGING THE ALASKA STATE LEGISLATIVE  
AND EXECUTIVE BRANCHES TO MAKE EXPRESSLY LEGAL THE  
CULTIVATION OF INDUSTRIAL HEMP IN THE STATE OF ALASKA**

WHEREAS, industrial hemp is defined as that variety of cannabis containing not more than three tenths of one percent tetrahydrocannabinol (.3% THC) and is therefore legally and in fact nonpsychoactive; and

WHEREAS, industrial hemp (hereinafter "hemp") is produced legally in more than 30 nations, including Canada, Great Britain, France, Germany, Australia and China, and is imported into the U.S. for use in the production of over \$300 million worth of products such as textiles, automotive panels, insulation, mulch, animal bedding, rope, canvass, biomass fuel, energy bars, meatless burgers, lotions, lip balms, shampoos, soaps, massage oils, etc.;

WHEREAS, hemp would be a viable crop in Alaska, responding to a variety of demands locally, including energy production, as demonstrated by large scale competitive (legal) agricultural production in comparable latitudes and soils in Canada; and

WHEREAS, Alaskan hemp production could help alleviate the unemployment problem and economic troubles in Alaska, especially considering our cheap agricultural land which could be even cheaper with lease or outright grants of State land; and

WHEREAS, the federal Controlled Substances Act of 1970 prohibits nationally the production of hemp yet permits virtually its unlimited importation, explicitly acknowledging hemp as being distinct from marijuana and having no psychoactive properties; and

WHEREAS, the United States Constitution assures the State of Alaska and its people of (a) unequivocal autonomy except where it delegates power to the federal government (ninth and tenth amendments), and (b) sovereignty over their property (fourth and fifth amendments); and

WHEREAS, in that document, no delegation or interpretation of power is apparent, that would permit a proscription in Alaska of agricultural production of such a product as hemp; and

WHEREAS, North Dakota, Hawaii, Kentucky, Maine, Maryland, Oregon, California, Montana, West Virginia and Vermont have legitimized hemp by expressly making legal its cultivation, awaiting federal acknowledgement of its nonjurisdiction, or court decisions mandating such;

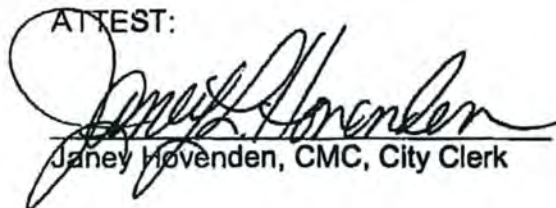
NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the City Council of the City of Fairbanks, Alaska, hereby emphatically urges the legislature and the governor of the State of Alaska (a) to enact statutes expressly empowering the people of this state to engage in the agricultural pursuit of the cultivation of hemp, as herein defined; and (b) to petition the president of the United States and his Drug Enforcement Administration either to justify constitutionally its ban on hemp or to nullify its current restrictions on its cultivation and distribution in the United States.

**PASSED and APPROVED** this 14th day of November, 2011.

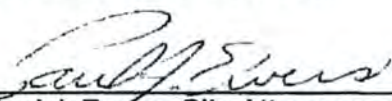
  
\_\_\_\_\_  
**JERRY CLEWORTH, MAYOR**

AYES: Stiver, Matherly, Hilling, Roberts  
NAYS: Gatewood  
ABSENT: Eberhart  
APPROVED: November 14, 2011

ATTEST:

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Janey Hovenden, CMC, City Clerk

APPROVED AS TO FORM

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Paul J. Ewers, City Attorney

1 By: Natalie Howard  
2 Michael Dukes  
3 Introduced: 02/09/12  
4 Advanced: 02/09/12  
5 Amended: 02/23/12  
6 Adopted: 02/23/12  
7  
8

9 FAIRBANKS NORTH STAR BOROUGH

10  
11 RESOLUTION NO. 2012 - 07

12  
13 A RESOLUTION REQUESTING THE ALASKA STATE LEGISLATURE AND  
14 GOVERNOR OF ALASKA TO MAKE EXPRESSLY LEGAL THE CULTIVATION OF  
15 INDUSTRIAL HEMP IN THE STATE OF ALASKA  
16

17 WHEREAS, industrial hemp is defined as that variety of cannabis  
18 containing not more than three tenths of one percent tetrahydrocannabinol (.3% THC)  
19 and is therefore legally and in fact nonpsychoactive; and  
20

21 WHEREAS, industrial hemp (hereinafter "hemp") is produced legally in  
22 more than 30 nations, including Canada, Great Britain, France, Germany, Australia and  
23 China, and is imported into the U.S. for use in the production of over \$300 million worth  
24 of products such as textiles, automotive panels, insulation, mulch, animal bedding,  
25 rope, canvass, biomass fuel, energy bars, meatless burgers, lotions, lip balms,  
26 shampoos, soaps, massage oils, etc; and  
27

28 WHEREAS, hemp would be a viable crop in Alaska, responding to a  
29 variety of demands locally, including energy production, as demonstrated by large scale  
30 competitive (legal) agricultural production in comparable latitudes and soils in Canada;  
31 and  
32

33 WHEREAS, Alaskan hemp production could help alleviate the  
34 unemployment problem and economic troubles in Alaska, especially considering our  
35 cheap agricultural land which could be even cheaper with lease or outright grants of  
36 state land; and  
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38 WHEREAS, the federal Controlled Substance Act of 1970 prohibits  
39 nationally the production of hemp yet permits virtually its unlimited importation, explicitly  
40 acknowledging hemp as being distinct from marijuana and having no psychoactive  
41 properties, and  
42

43 WHEREAS, the United States Constitution assures the State of Alaska  
44 and its people of (a) unequivocal autonomy except where it delegates power to the  
45 federal government (ninth and tenth amendments), and (b) sovereignty over their  
46 property (fourth and fifth amendments); and

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WHEREAS, in that document, no delegation or interpretation of power is apparent, that would permit a proscription in Alaska of agricultural production of such a product as hemp; and

WHEREAS, North Dakota, Hawaii, Kentucky, Maine, Maryland, Oregon, California, Montana, West Virginia and Vermont have legitimized hemp by expressly making legal its cultivation, awaiting federal acknowledgement of its nonjurisdiction, or court decisions mandating such;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Assembly of the Fairbanks North Star Borough hereby emphatically urges the legislature and the governor of the State of Alaska (a) to enact statues expressly empowering the people of this state to engage in the agricultural pursuit of the cultivation of hemp, as herein defined; and (b) to petition the president of the United State and his Drug Enforcement Administration either to justify constitutionally its essential ban on hemp or to nullify its current restriction on its cultivation and distribution in the United States.

PASSED AND APPROVED THIS 23rd DAY OF FEBRUARY, 2012.

  
Diane Hutchison  
Presiding Officer

ATTEST:

  
Mona Lisa Drexler, MMC  
Municipal Borough Clerk

67  
68 Ayes: Davies, Howard, Sattley, Dukes, Musick, Kassel  
69 Noes: Want, Winters, Hutchison

By: John Davies  
Introduced: 03/24/2016  
Adopted: 03/24/2016

FAIRBANKS NORTH STAR BOROUGH

RESOLUTION NO. 2016 – 14

A RESOLUTION SUPPORTING SENATE BILL 8: ALASKA GROWN INDUSTRIAL HEMP ACT, AN ACT RELATING TO THE REGULATION AND PRODUCTION OF INDUSTRIAL HEMP

WHEREAS, Senator Johnny Ellis introduced SB 8, An Act relating to the regulation and production of industrial hemp, known as the Alaska Grown Industrial Hemp Act; and

WHEREAS, Industrial hemp should not be confused with marijuana or varieties of the Cannabis plant that have high levels of THC (delta-9 tetrahydrocannabinol); industrial hemp refers to varieties of the Cannabis plant that have low levels of THC; and

WHEREAS, Due to hemp’s illegal status, little research has been done on the viability of arctic hemp crops in Alaska, but British Columbia, Ontario, and Manitoba have thriving commercial hemp operations and Canadian studies offer promise for the production of industrial hemp in northern climates; and

WHEREAS, The United States currently imports approximately \$2 billion annually in hemp products from Canada and China; and

WHEREAS, In working towards a balanced and sustainable State budget, Alaska should embrace the economic opportunity and free market potential of industrial hemp; and

WHEREAS, a copy of Senator Ellis’ sponsor statement is attached to the resolution;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED by the FNSB Assembly that we urge the Alaska State Legislature to pass Senate Bill 8, the Alaska grown Industrial Hemp Act.


BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this resolution shall be distributed to the Alaska State Legislature.

PASSED AND APPROVED THIS 24<sup>th</sup> DAY OF MARCH, 2016.

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John Davies  
Presiding Officer

ATTEST:



Nanci Ashford-Bingham, MMC  
Borough Clerk

Ayes: Sattley, Hutchison, Cooper, Lawrence, Dodge, Quist, Davies  
Noes: None  
Excused: Roberts, Westlind

Christian & Ember Haynes  
Denali Hemp Company  
HC 89 Box 395  
Willow, Ak 99688

March 20, 2016

Dear Alaskan Senators;

We are writing in favor of legalizing Hemp in Alaska and passing SB 8.

We believe every Alaskan should have the chance and the choice to fail, succeed or pave the Hemp highway for the future.

The legalization of all Cannabis and taking the steps for Alaskans to grow Hemp crops is an important issue near and dear to our hearts.

Hemp has so very many important uses, from fuel to fiber to internal wellness.

We use Hemp seed oil everyday, and incorporate Hemp seeds into not only our family's daily diets but include Hemp seed/oil in the care of our animals.

It is disappointing that we have to import the Hemp seed and oil we use.

The chance to grow and harvest a small plot of Hemp for seeds and stock & foliage to fill the needs of my family and livestock would be amazing.

We try and grow our own garden vegetables and herbs, which could easily include growing the Hemp we consume and utilize.

Hemp is an agricultural crop, and would require very minimal regulations.

When looking to other states that have regulated Hemp; Montana and Indiana have both adapted simple legislation that allows state citizens to obtain a license and grow Hemp without arduous requirements and government process.

We certainly hope that our Alaska legislators will allow any Alaskan citizen to obtain a license/permit to grow Hemp that is under  $>.3\%$  THC.

We believe it is important to allow any citizen to grow and harvest the amount of this agricultural commodity they find is fitting for their own needs and land.

Please do not over-regulate this beneficial plant that can be harvested by hand or machine.

Please allow the average Alaskan citizen to research and determine the correct

type of Hemp seed that best suits their own needs and microclimates, staying within the parameters of crops producing under  $>.3\%$  THC.

Common varieties of Hemp could easily be grown in hoop-houses to allow for light deprivation on a commercial or private scale.

Auto-flowering varieties of Hemp such as "Victory" are able to be grown and harvested as field crops.

We are asking you as Alaskan business owners and parents with a vested interest in Alaska's future, to please pass SB8 .

This is an amazing opportunity and could do so much for our great State and set an example for other states to follow suit !

Sincerely,

Chris and Ember Haynes

Examples of Hemp Legislation in Montana and Indiana:

Montana

**KENAI LEGISLATIVE INFORMATION OFFICE**

Email: [Kenai\\_LIO@akleg.gov](mailto:Kenai_LIO@akleg.gov)

Phone: 907-283-2030 / Fax: 907-283-3075

**WRITTEN TESTIMONY**

**NAME:** J.R. Meyers  
**REPRESENTING:** Self  
**BILL # or SUBJECT:** SB 8  
**COMMITTEE:** Senate Resources                      **DATE:** 3-27-15

Dear Senators,

I write you in support of SB8 - Industrial Hemp Production Licenses.

Hemp is a versatile crop being grown worldwide.

Alaska agriculture could greatly benefit from the establishment of a viable hemp industry. We need to diversify our economy.

Hemp production is a wonderful way to accomplish enhanced agricultural production of food, fuel, fiber, etc. and a multitude of value added products.

Peace & Blessings,

J.R. Myers

Soldotna



State of Alaska  
 Office of the Governor  
 675 Seventh Avenue, Station H5  
 Fairbanks, Alaska 99701

PUBLIC OPINION MESSAGE

Name: FRANK W. TURNER

Address: PO-Box 70392 FBKS AK 99709

Phone Number: (907) 457-2333

Message Subject: INDUSTRIAL HEMP FARMING

Message (25 words or less): SEN. BILL (8) WILL BE

HEARD TODAY IN SENATE RESOURCE AT 3:30 PM

INTRODUCED BY SEN. JOHNNY ELLIS

GOD. I'VE GIVEN YOU A LOT OF INFORMATION ON THE SUBJECT MATTER, ENOUGH FOR YOU TO WRITE A BOOK ON.

Signed: FRANK W. TURNER YOU'VE STATED MANY TIMES YOU WOULD SUPPORT.

Date: MARCH 20th 2015

(FRIDAY)

## Doniece Gott

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**From:** Sen. Anna MacKinnon  
**Sent:** Saturday, April 09, 2016 12:41 PM  
**To:** Senate Finance Committee  
**Subject:** FW: SB 8

*Kristen Pratt*

Legislative Aide  
Office of Senator Anna MacKinnon  
Alaska State Legislature  
Alaska State Capitol | Room 516  
(907) 694-8944

**From:** Chris & Ember Haynes [mailto:haynes@mtaonline.net]  
**Sent:** Friday, April 08, 2016 10:01 PM  
**To:** Sen. Anna MacKinnon <Sen.Anna.MacKinnon@akleg.gov>  
**Subject:** SB 8

Dear Senator MacKinnon,  
I am writing to you once again in hopes of passing SB 8.  
This bill is simply allowing Alaskans another opportunity.

Please read my further thoughts:

Dear Alaskan Senators;

We are writing in favor of legalizing Hemp in Alaska and passing SB 8.

We believe every Alaskan should have the chance and the choice to fail, succeed or pave the Hemp highway for the future.

The legalization of all Cannabis and taking the steps for Alaskans to grow Hemp crops is an important issue near and dear to our hearts.

Hemp has so very many important uses, from fuel to fiber to internal wellness. We use Hemp seed oil everyday, and incorporate Hemp seeds into not only our family's daily diets but include Hemp seed/oil in the care of our animals.

It is disappointing that we have to import the Hemp seed and oil we use.

The chance to grow and harvest a small plot of Hemp for seeds and stock & foliage to fill the needs of my family and livestock would be amazing.

We try and grow our own garden vegetables and herbs, which could easily include growing the Hemp we consume and utilize.

Hemp is an agricultural crop, and would require very minimal regulations. When looking to other states that have regulated Hemp; Montana and Indiana have both adapted simple legislation that allows state citizens to obtain a license and grow Hemp without arduous requirements and government process. We certainly hope that our Alaska legislators will allow any Alaskan citizen to obtain a license/permit to grow Hemp that is under >.3% THC.

We believe it is important to allow any citizen to grow and harvest the amount of this agricultural commodity they find is fitting for their own needs and land. Please do not over-regulate this beneficial plant that can be

harvested by hand or machine.

Please allow the average Alaskan citizen to research and determine the correct

type of Hemp seed that best suits their own needs and microclimates, staying within the parameters of crops producing under >.3% THC.

Common varieties of Hemp could easily be grown in hoop-houses to allow for light deprivation on a commercial or private scale.

Auto-flowering varieties of Hemp such as "Victory" are able to be grown and harvested as field crops.

We are asking you as Alaskan business owners and parents with a vested interest in Alaska's future, to please pass SB8 .

This is an amazing opportunity and could do so much for our great State and set an example for other states to follow suit !

Sincerely,

Christian & Ember Haynes

Denali Hemp Company

HC 89 Box 395

Willow, Ak 99688

## Doniece Gott

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**From:** Sen. Anna MacKinnon  
**Sent:** Wednesday, April 13, 2016 10:26 AM  
**To:** Senate Finance Committee  
**Subject:** FW: Hemp SB8

**From:** Michele Morgan [mailto:juneustopheroin@yahoo.com]  
**Sent:** Wednesday, April 13, 2016 10:21 AM  
**To:** Sen. Anna MacKinnon <Sen.Anna.MacKinnon@akleg.gov>  
**Cc:** Sen. Johnny Ellis <Sen.Johnny.Ellis@akleg.gov>; Sarah Evans <Sarah.Evans@akleg.gov>; Ann Nielsen <annnielsen92@gmail.com>; James Brooks <james.k.brooks@juneauempire.com>; Emily Miller <emily.miller@juneauempire.com>; Elizabeth Jenkins <elizabethj@ktoo.org>; Taelyn Coffee <tcffee@andvsa.org>  
**Subject:** Hemp SB8

Good Afternoon Senator MacKinnon,

I am writing you to please support SB8. Hemp is a great product with many uses. With Alaska's oil prices plummeting it would be great to have a new source of revenue. Also hemp products such as rope and textiles will "break down" in the environment. I walk my dog on the beach every day and see plastic everywhere.

Thank you for all you do for our great state and our communities. Please pass SB 8. Please help bring this valuable fiber and feed product to Alaska for Alaskan farmers, fisherman and communities. Products made from Alaskan hemp would be a great industry for our state.

Michele Morgan

**Here are some notes I comprised on hemp.**

**Hemp will not get you high, but it may give you a headache.** Hemp contains just .3 percent of THC, the chemical that can cause feelings of euphoria. Hemp is long straight stalks. Marijuana is short and bushy. It is very easy to tell the difference.

Hemp is currently grown in **Colorado, Washington, California, Kentucky, Maine, Montana, North Dakota, Oregon, Vermont and West Virginia.**

If you know the history- You like hemp-

**In the 1600s, property owners in North America had to grow hemp.** By way of a royal decree, King James I required every property owner in Jamestown to grow 100 plants of hemp for export in 1619. The hemp was used to make ropes and canvas for British ships. Similar hemp decrees were later issued in Connecticut and Massachusetts.

Hemp for Victory was the name of a U.S. Department of Agriculture-run program to encourage farmers to grow hemp during World War II. When faced with a shortage of Manila hemp that was imported and used in ship's rigging.

Today hemp is used to make paper clothing, biodegradable plastics, construction body products, health food and bio-fuel.

## Doniece Gott

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**From:** Karisse Ackerman  
**Sent:** Wednesday, April 13, 2016 10:55 AM  
**To:** House Finance; Senate Finance Committee  
**Subject:** FW: SB 128 and HB 245

Please include Cathleen Daunais' comments to the committee record. Thank you, Karisse

**From:** Cathy Daunais [mailto:cathyd2012@yahoo.com]  
**Sent:** Wednesday, April 13, 2016 10:34 AM  
**To:** LIO Fairbanks <Lio.Fairbanks@akleg.gov>  
**Subject:** SB 128 and HB 245

TO: House and Senate Finance Committees

I am a resident of Fairbanks and have lived in Alaska 36 years receiving PFD's and not paying State income tax. I appreciate all of that but the party is over. Governor Walker had it right to make cuts, restructure PFD and institute a state income tax, and adjust oil tax credits. That all makes good sense. The Republican majority makes no sense. Your proposals go after the most vulnerable amongst us and leave the wealthiest oil corporations & citizens off the hook totally, especially when they contributed so much to the crisis we're presently in!! Your lack of economic knowledge is overwhelming. You have started a recession with your cuts and now going after PFD payouts without an income tax and adjusting oil tax credit is extremely irresponsible. Cathleen Daunais

## Doniece Gott

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**From:** Tim Lescher <timlescher@hotmail.com>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, April 13, 2016 1:18 PM  
**To:** Senate Finance Committee  
**Subject:** HB 137

Dear Senate Finance Committee,

I am writing you because I do not want the IM surcharge on Alaska hunting and fishing licenses. I am a hunter, and I fish, and intensive management is not only not cost effective, but it is a dated, irresponsible method of managing predators, that most states did away with decades ago. Managing predators in this manor completely desecrates the biological integrity of wildlife systems, because predators are a necessary and intrinsic part of healthy natural ecosystems. This is my opinion as an Alaskan hunter, but it is also my opinion as a biologist; I hold a BS in Biology and a MS in behavioral Ecology. If you would like to hear the opinion of an expert who ran predator control programs in the Yukon for 18 years, please read Wolves of the Yukon, but Bob Hayes. Please do not allow this irresponsible piece of legislation to pass, especially at this time when the state is on a strict budget. It is economically and ecologically not effective, and wasteful.

Thank you for hearing my comments.

Sincerely,

Timothy C. Lescher

(907)230-3661

## Doniece Gott

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**From:** Sen. Anna MacKinnon  
**Sent:** Wednesday, April 13, 2016 2:06 PM  
**To:** Senate Finance Committee  
**Subject:** FW: SB 8

**From:** Chris & Ember Haynes [mailto:haynes@mtaonline.net]  
**Sent:** Wednesday, April 13, 2016 1:50 PM  
**To:** Sen. Anna MacKinnon <Sen.Anna.MacKinnon@akleg.gov>  
**Subject:** SB 8

Dear Senator MacKinnon,

I am once again writing to ask you to please do what it takes to pass SB 8. My husband and I own Denali Hemp Company up here near Talkeetna. We use Hemp Seed Oil as the main ingredient in our products for the body and skin. We create salves, balms, oils, bath soaks, teas and soaps that are moisturizing, soothing and healing. Currently the Hemp Seed Oil we use is imported from Canada. We would love nothing more than the opportunity to grown our own Hemp to be used in the products we create. We also have pigs, sheep and chickens who would benefit from the Hemp stocks, leaves and seeds. SB 8 could open the door to a grassroots Hemp Industry here in Alaska. The term "Industrial" Hemp seems to bring to mind large factories and big Industry. It does not have to be so! Hemp is indeed an Agricultural crop...but that doesn't mean it HAS to be grown in huge quantities and immediately support a large-scale industry full of ready-to-go factories and billion dollar contracts. We believe the "Industrial Hemp" movement is and will be propelled by smaller Grassroots producers. Producers and production facilities do not have to be "large" to be successful...they just need to be able to produce! It is frustrating to hear those in the "Cannabis" community and Alaskan Legislature mock the growing of Hemp as an agricultural crop, basically saying because there isn't an active industry with a production facility up and running that there is no need to decriminalize Hemp. Backwards thinking it seems. Decriminalize Industrial Hemp (Agricultural Hemp) and see how the industry will grow! We have to start somewhere!!

Thank you,  
Ember & Chris Haynes  
Denali Hemp Company  
Willow/Talkeetna Alaska

## Doniece Gott

---

**From:** Chris & Ember Haynes <haynes@mtaonline.net>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, April 13, 2016 4:07 PM  
**To:** Senate Finance Committee  
**Subject:** Fwd: SB 8

Dear Senate Finance Committee,

I am once again writing to ask you to please do what it takes to pass SB 8.

My husband and I own Denali Hemp Company up here near Talkeetna.

We use Hemp Seed Oil as the main ingredient in our products for the body and skin.

We create salves, balms, oils, bath soaks, teas and soaps that are moisturizing, soothing and healing.

Currently the Hemp Seed Oil we use is imported from Canada.

We would love nothing more than the opportunity to grown our own Hemp to be used in the products we create.

We also have pigs, sheep and chickens who would benefit from the Hemp stocks, leaves and seeds.

SB 8 could open the door to a grassroots Hemp Industry here in Alaska.

The term "Industrial" Hemp seems to bring to mind large factories and big Industry.

It does not have to be so!

Hemp is indeed an Agricultural crop...but that doesn't mean it HAS to be grown in huge quantities and immediately support a large-scale industry full of ready-to-go factories and billion dollar contracts.

We believe the "Industrial Hemp" movement is and will be propelled by smaller Grassroots producers.

Producers and production facilities do not have to be "large" to be successful...they just need to be able to produce!

It is frustrating to hear those in the "Cannabis" community and Alaskan Legislature mock the growing of Hemp as an agricultural crop, basically saying because there isn't an active industry with a production facility up and running that there is no need to decriminalize Hemp.

Backwards thinking it seems.

Decriminalize Industrial Hemp (Agricultural Hemp) and see how the industry will grow!

We have to start somewhere!!

Thank you,  
Ember & Chris Haynes  
Denali Hemp Company  
Willow/Talkeetna Alaska

## Doniece Gott

---

**From:** Bill Fikes <bill@webmusher.com>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, April 13, 2016 4:11 PM  
**To:** Senate Finance Committee  
**Cc:** Sen. Pete Kelly; Sen. Anna MacKinnon; Sen. Peter Micciche; Sen. Click Bishop; Sen. Mike Dunleavy; Sen. Lyman Hoffman; Sen. Donny Olson  
**Subject:** SB 8 - Please Pass this Bill!

I am in favor of passing SB 8, "An Act relating to the regulation and production of industrial hemp."

Please do not miss this great opportunity to not only revitalize Alaskan Farming but to create thousands of ancillary jobs in many fields where Hemp could be used.

If you are not familiar with the myriad uses for commercial Hemp I would be glad to aid in your education.

Thank You,

Bill Fikes Jr  
Meadow Lakes, AK



Virus-free. [www.avast.com](http://www.avast.com)