

HOUSE RESOLUTION NO.104

Reps. Gay-Dagnogo, Hoadley, Yancey, Ellison, Byrd, Cynthia Johnson, Sneller, Neeley, Tyrone Carter, Love, LaGrand, Brenda Carter, Hood, Rabhi and Stone offered the following resolution:

1 A resolution to memorialize the United States Department of
2 Agriculture to recognize industrial hemp as a valuable agricultural
3 commodity and to take certain steps to remove barriers to encourage
4 the commercial production of this crop.

5 Whereas, Industrial hemp refers to the non-drug oilseed and
6 fiber varieties of Cannabis which are cultivated exclusively for
7 fiber, stalk, and seed. Industrial hemp is genetically distinct
8 from the drug varieties of Cannabis, also known as marihuana.
9 Industrial hemp has less than three tenths of one percent of the
10 psychoactive ingredient, tetrahydrocannabinol (THC). The flowering
11 tops of industrial hemp cannot produce any drug effect when smoked



1 or ingested; and

2 Whereas, Congress never intended to prohibit the production of
3 industrial hemp when restricting the production, possession, and
4 use of marihuana. The legislative history of the federal Marihuana
5 Tax Act, where the current definition of marihuana first appeared,
6 shows that farmers and manufacturers of industrial hemp products
7 were assuaged by Federal Bureau of Narcotic Commissioner Harry J.
8 Anslinger, who promised that the proposed legislation bore no
9 threat to them, saying "They are not only amply protected under
10 this act, but they can go ahead and raise hemp just as they have
11 always done it"; and

12 Whereas, Michigan began a pilot program to study the
13 cultivation of industrial hemp, as authorized under the Farm Bill
14 of 2014. The United States Department of Agriculture standards are
15 necessary to expand the license and authorization of industrial
16 hemp cultivation to farmers not directly connected to institutions
17 of higher learning or the Michigan Department of Agriculture and
18 Rural Development; and

19 Whereas, The Farm Bill of 2018 established procedures to
20 create and furnish standards for the cultivation of industrial
21 hemp. Michigan approved cultivation of hemp within days of the
22 passage of the Farm Bill; and

23 Whereas, Hemp products abound in the United States. Nutritious
24 hemp foods can be found in grocery stores nationwide and strong
25 durable hemp fibers can be found in the interior parts of millions
26 of American cars. Buildings are being constructed using a hemp and
27 lime mixture, thereby sequestering carbon. Retail sales of hemp
28 products in this country are estimated to be \$600 million in 2015;
29 and



Whereas, American farmers are missing out on an important economic opportunity. American companies are forced to import millions of dollars worth of hemp seed and fiber products annually from other countries, thereby effectively denying American farmers an opportunity to compete and share in the profits. Industrial hemp is a high-value, low-input crop that is not genetically modified, requires little or no pesticides, can be dry land farmed, and uses less fertilizer than wheat and corn. China is the largest supplier of raw and processed hemp fiber and Canada is the largest supplier of hemp seed and oil cake imported to the U.S. Farmers in other countries, including Canada, China, Great Britain, France, Germany, Romania, and Australia, can produce industrial hemp without undue restriction or complications; and

Whereas, Industrial and commercial grade hemp could help stimulate an economic resurgence in the city of Detroit and the state of Michigan as part of the Green Economy. Detroit has an abundance of vacant land that could be used for industrial hemp farming, as well as the processing and production of over 25,000 potential products and finished goods. This could create an economic resurgence by creating thousands of jobs for Detroit and Michigan; now, therefore, be it

Resolved by the House of Representatives, That we memorialize the United States Department of Agriculture to speedily create and disseminate standards allowing each state and its farmers to capitalize on this untapped economic driver; and be it further

Resolved, That copies of this resolution be transmitted to the United States Secretary of Agriculture and the members of the Michigan congressional delegation.

