



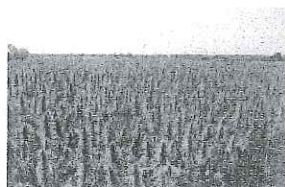
Colorado *farmers* are facing increasingly limited water supplies. And these constraints affect near- and long-term viability of agriculture and agricultural communities. There is a broad and growing movement across the country to re-introduce *industrial* hemp as an agricultural option. We in Colorado ought to be especially interested in this crop since the very existence of our farms, farm communities, and Colorado's economy

are potentially at risk if we do not soon find low-input crop alternatives.

There are many economic development opportunities associated with industrial hemp. From insulation, auto makers, and building materials manufacturers to cosmetic and cellulosic ethanol providers, there are dozens of industries in Colorado and the U.S. whose pent up demand for this crop could create an industrial boom.

### Consider These Facts:

- American companies are forced to import millions of dollars worth of hemp seed and fiber products, denying American farmers the opportunity to compete for and share in profits for cultivating hemp.
- Nutritious hemp foods can be found in grocery stores nationwide, and strong durable hemp fibers can be found in the interior parts of millions of American cars.
- Buildings are constructed of a hemp/lime mixture (hempcrete) that sequesters carbon.
- The recently revived global hemp market is a thriving commercial success. Retail sales of hemp products in the U.S. are estimated at \$365 million annually.
- Industrial hemp is a high-value, low-input crop that requires little or no pesticides, herbicides, or fungicides, can be dry-land farmed and uses less fertilizer than wheat or corn.
- Article 28, of the Single Convention on Narcotic Drugs of 1961, as amended by the 1972 Protocol, states that, "This Convention shall not apply to the cultivation of cannabis plant exclusively for industrial purposes (fiber and seed) or horticultural purposes."
- The U.S. is the *only* industrialized nation that prohibits hemp cultivation, due to the DEA's refusal to distinguish between low-THC hemp and high-THC marijuana.



- Hemp cannot be used as or converted into a recreational drug. When grown in close proximity to marijuana, hemp lowers the psychoactive properties of marijuana rendering it unmarketable and making hemp impractical as a cover for illegal marijuana cultivation.
- Consuming foods will not result in a false positive on a drug test.
- Hemp seed oil contains the highest and most-balanced levels of essential fatty acids of any seed oil and provides SDA and GLA. The nutritional qualities of hemp seed and oil are beneficial for both food and feed.
- Unlike other alternative fiber and biomass crops, industrial hemp can be grown at almost any latitude and under a wide variety of climate and soil conditions.
- Hemp stalks (cellulose) can be converted to biomass energy, and hemp seed (oil) can be converted to biodiesel. A car made of hemp composite has crossed North America running on 100% hemp fuel.
- Hemp fiber is the longest and most durable natural fiber on earth making it an alternative for such value-added components as wind turbine blades.
- As a rotation crop, hemp naturally suppresses weeds, fixates nitrogen and improves soil tilth. Rotating hemp with legume beans leads to a dramatic reduction in cyst nematodes (a destructive soil pest with few cures) without any chemical input.
- The DEA has the authority under the Controlled Substances Act to allow states to regulate industrial hemp farming under existing laws and without requiring federal applications and licenses.

Congress has the opportunity to pass a bill that clarifies the botanical difference between industrial hemp and marijuana and in turn clarify the process of how the DEA should be enforcing the law. HB 1866, The Industrial Hemp Farm Act of 2009 will be heard in the Energy and Commerce Committee.

to permit industrial hemp farming is denying agricultural producers in the U.S. the ability to benefit from a high-value, low-input crop which can provide significant economic benefits to producers and manufacturers. This position exists in spite of the fact that twelve states in 2009 alone have passed legislation in support of cultivation.

Reluctance to act on the parts of the U.S. Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA) and Congress

### What can *farmers* do?

Contact your U.S. Congressperson. Encourage passage of **HB 1866** for the benefit of all Colorado farmers!