

State of Kansas
House of Representatives

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Willie O. Dove
Representative, 38th District

TESTIMONY HB 2634-Alternative Crops Research Act

Thank you, Mr. Chairman and members of the Committee.

Industrial hemp helped our colonies win independence from England, and was vital to our victories in World Wars I and II.

It saved the life of a future American president.

Industrial hemp is versatile and environmentally-friendly. It easily fits into crop rotation plans for Kansas farmers. The 25,000 products that can be manufactured from this plant are job creators for our state.

Section 7606 of the 2013 Farm Bill authorized state legislatures legalizing this plant to begin research and pilot programs through state agriculture departments and institutions of higher learning. More than half the states in our Union, including those that border us, have either introduced legislation or are actively producing, manufacturing and marketing this amazing plant.

As I begin to discuss this legislation, I want to de-bunk a popular myth:

INDUSTRIAL HEMP IS NOT MARIJUANA.

It may have been a while since our classes in botany, but here is a quick review on the differences between hemp and marijuana:

Each plant is a variant of the genus *Cannabis sativa*, the only plant genus that contains the unique class of molecular compounds called cannabinoids. The two major cannabinoids are abbreviated THC and CDB. Marijuana has high levels of THC and low levels of CDB; hemp is just the opposite, high CDB, and low THC. Section 7606 asserts *that industrial hemp is distinct from marijuana and limits the THC content of its certified seed to 0.3%*. As a comparison, marijuana has a THC content of between 10-100 times higher than hemp. Furthermore, the CDB in hemp counteracts the THC in marijuana. If a field of marijuana is planted near a field of industrial hemp, the CDB in the hemp will overwhelm the THC in the marijuana, reducing its psychoactive properties, and thus its effect as an hallucinogenic.

In summary, Industrial hemp cannot be used as a psychoactive drug.

INDUSTRIAL HEMP IS NOT MARIJUANA.

The hemp plant is made up of the stem, leaves, seeds and roots; all of which can be manufactured in the aforementioned 25,000 products.

You can build a house with it: From roof to load-bearing walls, insulation, paneling and flooring.

You can build an automobile body with it. Henry Ford already did so, around the turn of the 20th century.

Tractor bodies can also be made from hemp.

The seeds are not only edible and delicious; they are high in Omega 3 and 6, and essential fatty acids. In recent weeks, members of this committee and the legislature as a whole have received samples of several food products made from industrial hemp. The pressed seeds also make a nutritious livestock feed.

Members of this committee have also received samples of hemp-blended fabric swatches. As a textile, hemp requires only 1/3 the water of cotton and is pest-resistant, requiring no pesticides, herbicides, or fungicides. Not only is it friendly to our environment, it is an ideal alternative crop for our friends and neighbors in drought-stricken western Kansas.

Hemp is "Green"

Aside from reducing the soil-harming effects of chemicals, "hempcrete" is a revolutionary insulator. Made from the hurd, or woody core of the hemp stalk and lime, hempcrete feeds on carbon dioxide as it hardens, making it at least carbon-neutral, or better. While conventional concrete needs to be heated to 3000 degrees, hempcrete needs only to be mixed with lime in a mortar mixer. A cured block of hempcrete FLOATS IN A BUCKET OF WATER. It weighs 1/8 as much as concrete and has a far less carbon footprint. As insulation, a 12-inch-thick section has an R-Value of 20, and unlike fiberglass, is non-toxic. And termites won't go near it.

According to the Hemp Industries of America, the U. S. imported \$620M in hemp products, mostly from Canada, in 2014, a 21% increase from the year before. Kansas needs to join her other states in helping to reduce that trade imbalance by legalizing industrial hemp.

Thomas Jefferson wrote the first and second drafts of the Declaration of Independence on hemp paper.

The sails and riggings of the U.S.S. Constitution were made of hemp.

Our colonists used hemp to pay their taxes and as legal tender.

The webbing on his parachute that saved the life of Navy Lt. George H. W. Bush was made of hemp as were the ropes and riggings of the ship that plucked him from the Pacific after his plane went down. Even the future president's shoes that day were made of the fabric.

At one time in our country, 400,000 acres of land were planted in hemp, and Kansas was a leading producer.

We can be again.

Imagine the combination of this versatile, environmentally-sound plant with the genius of the Kansas farmer, and the inventive manufacturers across our state.

I urge this committee to support House Bill 2634.

For Industrial Hemp. For Jobs. For Kansas.

Thank you.

I'll be happy to entertain questions from the committee.

Representative Willie Dove