

# Kansas Farmers for Alternative Crop Expansion

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RE: HB2634 – Written Testimony in Support

Chairmen, members of the committee, thank you for allowing me to submit written testimony in support of HB2634. My name is Kevin Barone and I represent a group of independent farmers that are interested in learning, growing and producing Industrial Hemp in Kansas. These groups of farmers I represent represent the next generation of farmers in Kansas. These farmers are the ones who are looking to expand their farming options in Kansas. To get a question out of the way, Industrial Hemp is NOT marijuana!

Industrial hemp has increasingly become a topic of conversation due to the possible economic, agricultural and medical benefits it could have. While industrial hemp comes from the same cannabis plant as marijuana, (like cousins from the same family) they are very different crops. Simply put, industrial hemp is not marijuana.

In fact, industrial hemp is comprised of less than 0.3 percent tetrahydrocannabinol, the chemical in marijuana that causes psychotropic effects. This definition comes from the passage of the 2014 Federal Farm bill, Sec 7606. By passing HB2634, Kansas will be taking a great step to ensure continued farming, jobs and an economic boom to the state. The marketing research portion of the Farm Bill is incredibly important to help further legislation. The act allows private growers to be licensed by their Dept of Ag. The individual farmer opportunity is critical since there is no federal funding being offered to universities for research at this time.

The United States currently spends well over multiple tens of millions of dollars annually on hemp imports from Canada, Europe and China. Industrial Hemp can be used to make rope, clothing or any other of industrial hemp's currently known 25,000 uses – money that we could be keeping right here in Kansas. Many economist who have looked into the Industrial Hemp issue realize, believe and state that the Industrial Hemp industry will surpass the legalized marijuana industry by ten times. This great potential comes from the numerous possibilities that Industrial Hemp brings and this doesn't include the new research HB2634 would allow that could potentially generate ideas that are not even thought of yet.

From an agricultural point of view only, growing Industrial Hemp allows farmers an economic boost as well as a job creator. Industrial Hemp is an environmentally friendly and fast growing crop that can be cultivated using sustainable farming methods. In a climate like Kansas, a single harvest of Industrial Hemp can fully mature in 3-4 months, and can yield 3-8 tons of fiber per acre, this is four time the amount of the average timber forest.

The climate Kansas has is one of the best in the nation for growing Industrial Hemp and since growing will eliminate weeds in the area it is grown, the need for chemical pesticides/fertilizers is eliminated. Industrial Hemp not only gives a great yield, it will rejuvenate the nutrients in the group and make the land better than it was before the Industrial Hemp was planted. Industrial Hemp is such a natural product that it is an excellent source to use for reclaiming otherwise-unusable land and has even been shown to clean up radioactive soil, by simply growing it in the contaminated area.

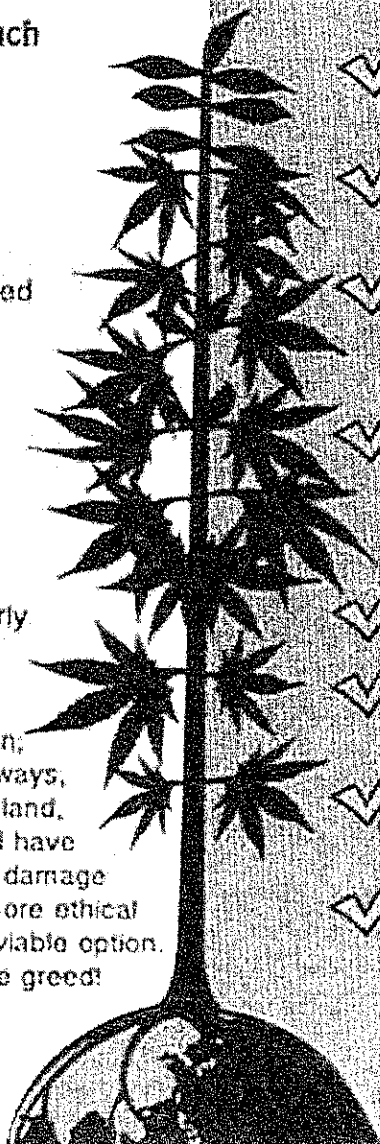
Industrial Hemp is the world's most versatile fiber. Anything that can be made from wood, cotton or oil can be made from Industrial Hemp. Industrial Hemp is like cotton times ten. When the United States was unable to obtain the cotton needed during the war, the Federal Government required farmers to grow Industrial Hemp, to replace the cotton the country needed. The real irony is if a farmer chose not to grow the plant during that wartime, the Federal government fined the farmer.

I can go on and on discussing the potential Industrial Hemp will have in the U.S.; the real question is will Kansas be ahead of the curve or behind it. Supporting the passage of HB2634 will help ensure that Kansas IS ahead of the curve. Thank you for your time and attention and I ask that you support the passage of HB2634.

# Cotton vs Hemp

- Cotton needs twice as much land as Hemp
- Cotton needs 9.758L to grow 1kg of fibre
- Cotton pollutes the water and leaves the land scorched due to its high pesticide & herbicide needs
- Cotton accounts for 25% of all pesticide use worldwide
- Organic cotton lessens the blow, although it is not nearly as sustainable as Hemp

With the planet in the state that its in; with global warming, polluted waterways, desertification and loss of farmable land, surely the governments of our world have talked about options in undoing the damage and proceeding development in a more ethical and environmental way. Hemp is a viable option. So why aren't we using it? Corporate greed! I'm over it! Are you? Wear emph, choose hemp. Your dollar is your vote. People before profits!!



- ✓ Hemp produces twice as much fibre per acre
- ✓ Hemp only uses 2.123L to grow 1kg of fibre
- ✓ Hemp returns up to 60% of the nutrients to the soil when dried in the field
- ✓ Hemp can be grown on the same land consecutively for 14 years without soil depletion or yield reduction
- ✓ Hemp is a great rotation crop
- ✓ Hemp requires no pesticides and is a natural weed deterrent
- ✓ Hemp fibre is 4x more durable than cotton
- ✓ Hemp can be relied on in a drought induced famine for its high protein seed

Thank You  
Kevin Barone  
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