

## 2015-K1425

LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION commending the Hemp Industries Association upon the occasion of holding its Seventh Annual Hemp History Week from June 6-12, 2016

WHEREAS, The agricultural industry is part of the foundation upon which our distinct American heritage is built; and

WHEREAS, It is the sense of this Legislative Body to commend the Hemp Industries Association upon the occasion of holding its Seventh Annual Hemp History Week from June 6-12, 2016; and

WHEREAS, Now in its seventh year, Hemp History Week is an industry-wide effort made possible by the support of the leading natural product brands known for manufacturing the highest quality hemp products; and

WHEREAS, The American market for hemp products remains the largest worldwide, and continues to expand with 10.4% market growth achieved in 2015, according to estimates from the Hemp Industries Association; and

WHEREAS, At least 3,900 acres of United States soil were planted with industrial hemp in 2015, across Colorado, Hawaii, Indiana, Kentucky, Oregon, Tennessee and Vermont; and

WHEREAS, Industrial hemp has the potential to have a synergistic impact on a wide range of economies in New York from textiles to building materials to paper, food, body products and environmental products such as biofuel; and

WHEREAS, Hemp farming is an important step toward creating raw materials, finished products, and innovative technologies to catalyze a sustainable future in which every-day products are renewable and grown using regenerative agriculture; and

WHEREAS, Hemp is a renewable resource which can help reduce market dependency on synthetics, lumber, cotton, and other non-sustainable industrial materials; hemp contributes to environmentally responsible

food and fiber production, forest conservation, reduction in agricultural pesticide use, and soil remediation; and

WHEREAS, Furthermore, Hemp sequesters carbon from the atmosphere, thus mitigating the rise of CO<sub>2</sub> levels responsible for climate change, and

pollinators thrive on the proliferous pollen created by hemp plants; and

WHEREAS, 2016 marks the year when the first licenses will be issued to New York colleges and universities to study industrial hemp growth; and

WHEREAS, Universities will work with New York farmers to study local methods for growth, harvesting, storage, transportation, and marketing of crops, helping to secure New York's position at the forefront of the industry and helping to diversify New York's agricultural economy; and

WHEREAS, On Earth Day 2016, grassroots organizers hosted events across the country to advocate for hemp farming as part of a larger dialogue on agriculture and sustainability; from hemp batteries to efficient hemp homes, industrial hemp is a crop that can grow our future; and

WHEREAS, A renewable resource offering a long list of health and nutritional benefits, hemp is one of the fastest-growing categories in the natural foods industry; hemp seed is a rich source of Omega-3 and Omega-6 essential fatty acids (EFAs), providing both SDA and GLA, highly-digestible protein and naturally-occurring vitamins and minerals, such as vitamin E and iron, while being a good source of dietary fiber; and

WHEREAS, In addition, hemp is a complete protein, containing all 10 essential amino acids, with no enzyme inhibitors, making it more digestible by the human body; hemp seed is gluten-free and has no known allergens; and

WHEREAS, The mission of the Hemp Industries Association, a membership-based non-profit trade group, is to represent the interests of the

hemp industry and to encourage the research and development of new products made from industrial hemp; and

WHEREAS, The Hemp Industries Association strives to educate the public

about the exceptional attributes of hemp products; facilitate the exchange of information and technology between hemp agriculturists, processors, manufacturers, distributors and retailers; maintain and defend the integrity of hemp products; and advocate and support socially responsible and environmentally sound business practices; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That this Legislative Body pause in its deliberations to commend the Hemp Industries Association upon the occasion of holdings its Seventh Annual Hemp History Week from June 6-12, 2016; and be it further

RESOLVED, That a copy of this Resolution, suitably engrossed, be transmitted to the Hemp Industries Association.