

**HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO.**

Introduced by

Representative Thoreson

1 A concurrent resolution urging the United States Drug Enforcement Administration to allow  
2 North Dakota to regulate industrial hemp farming without requiring federal licenses, applications  
3 or fees.

4 **WHEREAS**, industrial hemp refers to nondrug oilseed and fiber varieties of cannabis  
5 that have less than three-tenths of one percent tetrahydrocannabinol and which are genetically  
6 distinct from the drug varieties of cannabis, also known as marijuana; and

7 **WHEREAS**, the flowering tops of industrial hemp cannot produce any drug effect when  
8 smoked or ingested; and

9 **WHEREAS**, it was never the intent of Congress to interfere with or otherwise prohibit  
10 the farming, production, and utilization of industrial hemp when it enacted the original Marijuana  
11 Tax Act of 1937; and

12 **WHEREAS**, industrial hemp is grown commercially in more than 30 countries, without  
13 undue restriction or complications; and

14 **WHEREAS**, American companies are forced to import millions of dollars worth of hemp  
15 seed and fiber products annually from Canada, Europe, and China, thereby effectively denying  
16 American farmers an opportunity to compete and share in the profits; and

17 **WHEREAS**, nutritious hemp foods can be found in grocery stores nationwide and strong  
18 durable hemp fibers can be found in the interior parts of millions of American cards; and

19 **WHEREAS**, buildings are being constructed using a hemp and lime mixture; and

20 **WHEREAS**, retail sales of hemp products in this country are estimated to be  
21 \$365,000,000 annually; and

22 **WHEREAS**, the reluctance of the United States Drug Enforcement Administration to  
23 permit industrial hemp farming is denying agricultural producers in this country the ability to  
24 benefit from a high-value, low-input crop, which can provide significant economic benefits and  
25 manufacturers; and

1           **WHEREAS**, North Dakota has enacted statutes that would allow only stalk, fiber,  
2 sterilized seed, and seed oil, which are legal to import, sell, and possess under federal law, to  
3 leave the farm and enter commerce; and

4           **WHEREAS**, the Drug Enforcement Administration has the authority under the  
5 Controlled Substances Act to allow this state to regulate industrial hemp farming under existing  
6 laws and without requiring individual federal applications and licenses;

7           **NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES**  
8 **OF NORTH DAKOTA, THE SENATE CONCURRING THEREIN:**

9           That the Sixty-first Legislative Assembly urges the United States Drug Enforcement  
10 Administration to allow North Dakota to regulate industrial hemp farming under existing state  
11 laws, without requiring federal licenses or fees; and

12           **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that the Secretary of State forward copies of this  
13 resolution to the President of the United States, the Attorney General of the United States, the  
14 Administrator of the United State Drug Enforcement Administration, the United States Secretary  
15 of Agriculture, and to each member of the North Dakota Congressional Delegation.