

Representative David Monson
House District 19
Testimony for HCR 3004

Chairman Thomas and members of the House Agriculture Committee, for the record I am Rep. David Monson from District 19 in far northeastern ND. I introduced this resolution for the District 21 legislators. They have a constituent who wants to make flags from hemp fiber. He is frustrated with the fact that most of our American flags are made in China out of inferior material that doesn't stand up to our weather.in ND. I've never met him or even talked to him, so I don't even know if his flag factory is still a dream or is actually in production. However, I applaud his idea and want to help him create an industry here in ND to promote the hemp fiber usage. Our farmers who want to grow hemp would benefit greatly from an industry such as this. Our main obstacle now to hemp production in ND is the lack of fiber usage. We have oil pressing facilities here but using the whole plant and byproducts would greatly improve the viability of the hemp production in ND. As many of you know, I have been the number one promoter of industrial hemp in ND since 1997. It is legal to grow hemp, but there are still too many hoops to jump through in my opinion. Industrial hemp has now been renamed to just hemp with the industrial portion of the name dropped. With that I will stand for any questions.