

**SUBSTITUTE FOR
HOUSE RESOLUTION NO. 104**

1 A resolution urging the United States Department of
2 Agriculture to recognize industrial hemp as a valuable agricultural
3 commodity and take steps to remove barriers to the commercial
4 production of this crop.

5 Whereas, Industrial hemp is cultivated to produce fiber,
6 grain, biomass, or non-intoxicating medical compounds, such as
7 cannabidiol (CBD). Industrial hemp is genetically distinct from the
8 drug varieties known as marihuana and includes only parts and
9 varieties that contain a tetrahydrocannabinol concentration of 0.3
10 percent or less by dry weight; and

11 Whereas, Industrial hemp is among the earliest and most-widely
12 cultivated plants in human history, with artifacts dated at
13 approximately 10,000 years old. Today, industrial hemp is known for
14 a multitude of uses and can be found in thousands of products



1 including textiles, fibers, biodegradable plastics, cosmetics,
2 food, and oil extracts; and

3 Whereas, Industrial hemp has played a crucial role in the
4 development of the United States, providing raw material for the
5 manufacture of rope, sail canvas, textiles and paper in the 18th
6 and 19th centuries. Increased availability of other industrial
7 fibers combined with concerns about marihuana abuse led to a
8 gradual prohibition of cannabis cultivation in the United States.
9 By the mid-1930s cannabis was regulated as a drug across the
10 country and effectively outlawed by the federal Marihuana Tax Act
11 of 1937; and

12 Whereas, In recent years reduced regulations at the federal
13 level have created opportunities to revitalize this valuable
14 commodity. After nearly 80 years of federal restriction, the 2014
15 Farm Bill permitted regulated research by state governments or
16 universities on this valuable agricultural commodity, and, later,
17 the 2018 Farm Bill legalized commercial production of industrial
18 hemp in all 50 states; and

19 Whereas, In 2019, Michigan began an agricultural pilot program
20 to study the growth, cultivation, and marketing of industrial hemp,
21 as authorized by the 2014 Farm Bill. To date, 547 grower
22 registrations and 403 processor-handler licenses have been issued;
23 and

24 Whereas, The United States Department of Agriculture has not
25 yet completed promulgating federal rules for hemp production.
26 Industrial hemp farmers in Michigan continue to operate under
27 emergency guidelines established by the Michigan Department of
28 Agriculture and Rural Development. Uncertainty in processing rules
29 and regulations may stymie an important economic opportunity that



1 could stimulate an economic resurgence for the agricultural
2 industry across and throughout the state; now, therefore, be it

3 Resolved by the House of Representatives, That we urge the
4 United States Department of Agriculture to promulgate rules and
5 provide guidance to state departments of agriculture on submission
6 of state hemp plans in a timely manner; and be it further

7 Resolved, That copies of this resolution be transmitted to the
8 United States Secretary of Agriculture and the members of the
9 Michigan congressional delegation.

