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Both Houses of North Carolina General Assembly Pass Industrial Hemp Bill

Growing Hemp in NC Closer to Reality

RALEIGH, NC (Sept. 30, 2015) – The first industrial hemp pilot program in the state of North Carolina is one step closer now that Senate Bill 313 has successfully passed through the House with a vote of 101-7 and the Senate with a vote of 42-2. Sponsored by Representative Jeff Collins (R, Nash County) and Senator Stan Bingham (R, Davidson County), the bill will now be submitted to Governor Pat McCrory's office for final approval.

The bill allows for the creation of the North Carolina Industrial Hemp Commission, who will oversee the pilot program, institute the rules and regulations for participants, and coordinate with university research programs. The bill also establishes licensing fees for the pilot program at US\$250 plus US\$2 per acre.

Once the bill has been signed into law, the North Carolina Industrial Hemp Association (NCIHA) will work closely with the North Carolina Industrial Hemp Commission to organize the statewide pilot program.

“This is exciting news for North Carolina farmers who will be able to cultivate industrial hemp again for the first time in 71 years,” said Thomas Shumaker, Executive Director for NCIHA. “We would like to thank everyone who supported our organization throughout this effort especially North Carolina Agriculture Commissioner Steve Troxler and his team for their hard work and support in making this a reality.”



To read the full text of the legislation, please visit the NCIHA website at <http://www.ncindhemp.org/projects.html>.

Learn more about industrial hemp cultivation by joining the NCIHA or signing up for the newsletter at www.ncindhemp.org.

About the North Carolina Industrial Hemp Association

The North Carolina Industrial Hemp Association (NCIHA) is a 501(c) (6) non-profit association that serves as the driving force to forward the legal growth of hemp and its many industrial and medicinal uses in North Carolina. NCIHA is the central point of information and industry development in North Carolina for farmers, processors, retailers, consumers, as well as educational and governmental stakeholders. Connect with the NCIHA online at www.ncindhemp.org and follow them on Twitter @nchempindustry.