

# The Industrial Hemp Solution for our Future Economy

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The United States has a vast unacknowledged source of wealth to be tapped.

For decades the federal government has attempted to comply with the most destructive special-interest law ever written. America has wasted billions trying to eradicate the very plant which could have prevented this economic crisis. If used to its full potential, within the first year hemp would greatly lower the cost of fuel, food, clothing and building material, put more people to work and generate more new wealth than any other provision of the recovery plan. Hemp has more uses and produces more usable raw material than any other plant. Growing 15 feet tall in 100 to 120 days, hemp will grow on marginal land, of which the U.S. Government owns millions of acres.

Hemp can yield more than 300 gallons of seed oil per acre. The remainder of the seed is high-quality protein suitable for people or livestock. More than 100 years ago, before petroleum took over, hemp seed oil was the standard fuel oil, machine lubricant and paint base. Anything that can be made from petroleum, including plastics, can also be made from hemp seed oil, with fewer toxic by-products. Hemp provides the longest and most durable of all natural fibers. Hemp clothing lasts many times longer than cotton, and "breathes" quite well, unlike synthetic textiles. The American Revolution depended heavily on hemp cloth for sails, rigging, tents and clothing. George Washington and Thomas Jefferson grew hemp and praised its virtues in their journals. The first U.S. flag was made from hemp cloth, and still survives. American independence would have been impossible without the hemp plant, and is gravely weakened by its prohibition.

Hemp stalks can be heat compacted into boards, beams and panels that are lighter and twice as strong as those derived from trees, and with several times the annual volume per acre. Hemp plastic and fiber composites are tough enough to make car bodies. Another application of the stalks is biomass for fuel, where hemp once again provides annual yields many times higher than forest land. Hemp is ideal for rebuilding local economies. Decentralizing production greatly lowers fuel consumption as raw material is grown closer to where it's used. Hemp prohibition was instigated more than 70 years ago by petrochemical and timber barons, simply to eliminate their greatest natural competitor. This artificial scarcity forced over-reliance on timber and oil, leading to massive crimes against nature, and needless wars over basic resources.

It takes courage to admit that a major established policy was fundamentally wrong. Legalizing industrial hemp is one of the boldest and most vital moves required of this administration. The growing season begins soon, and it will take time to acquire seed supplies from the other countries with industrial hemp programs already under way. Details on transition logistics are available, so phone the White House at (202) 456-1111.