

1999 ASSEMBLY JOINT RESOLUTION 49

April 27, 1999 – Introduced by Representatives HAHN, BOYLE, OTT, SKINDRUD, SPILLNER, GRONEMUS, FREESE, BLACK, POCAN, OLSEN, MUSSER, MILLER, BERCEAU, AINSWORTH, OWENS, YOUNG, SHERMAN and TURNER, cosponsored by Senators SCHULTZ, RUDE and CLAUSING. Referred to Committee on Agriculture.

1 **Relating to:** requesting Congress to clearly authorize the production of industrial
2 hemp.

3 Whereas, agriculture is the largest source of income for Wisconsin, generating
4 over \$40 billion annually; and

5 Whereas, a devastating drop in prices for agricultural products is threatening
6 the survival Wisconsin's family farms and Wisconsin's number one industry; and

7 Whereas, diversifying agriculture is a necessary goal for strengthening
8 Wisconsin's economy; and

9 Whereas, in over 30 countries, including Canada, England, Germany and
10 Japan, existing international treaties provide for the agricultural production and
11 sale of industrial hemp as a valuable agricultural product; and

12 Whereas, industrial hemp refers to the more than 2 dozen strains of the
13 cannabis plant that contain 1% or less tetrahydrocannabinol (THC) and therefore
14 should not be confused with varieties of cannabis that have a high content of THC;
15 and

1 Whereas, industrial hemp is a renewable resource that can grow to maturity
2 in 100 days without the necessity of pesticides and can be grown as a rotation crop
3 to control weeds, therefore improving the soil for the next crop; and

4 Whereas, the reintroduction of industrial hemp as a potential agronomic crop
5 will have long-term economic benefits to the farmers who produce the hemp and the
6 persons who utilize hemp for the manufacture of more than 25,000 products,
7 including building materials, carpeting, pulp, paper products, oil, paints, cosmetics,
8 plastics, automobile parts, fuel, animal feed, food, canvas, twine, clothing and rope;
9 and

10 Whereas, during World War II, the U.S. department of agriculture carried out
11 a nationwide “Hemp for Victory” campaign, distributing 400,000 pounds of hemp
12 seeds to farmers to encourage the production of industrial hemp; and

13 Whereas, during this time, Wisconsin farmers produced more than 30,000 acres
14 of industrial hemp and created processing plants in 10 different communities; and

15 Whereas, current federal policy prevents the American agricultural
16 production of industrial hemp while foreign hemp is being imported, at a loss of
17 millions of dollars to American farmers; and

18 Whereas, this current federal policy is inconsistent with international
19 agricultural policy and places an unnecessary financial restriction on Wisconsin’s
20 agricultural community; and

21 Whereas, Congress never intended to prohibit the production of industrial
22 hemp when restricting the production, possession and use of marijuana; now,
23 therefore, be it

24 ***Resolved by the assembly, the senate concurring, That*** the members of the
25 Wisconsin legislature request the Congress of the United States to acknowledge the

1 difference between the marijuana plant and the agricultural crop known as
2 industrial hemp; to acknowledge that allowing farmers to produce industrial hemp
3 will improve the balance of trade by promoting domestic sources of industrial hemp;
4 and to assist United States producers by clearly authorizing the commercial
5 production of industrial hemp; and, be it further

6 ***Resolved, That*** the assembly chief clerk shall provide a copy of this joint
7 resolution to the U.S. secretary of agriculture, the U.S. Drug Enforcement Agency,
8 the director of the Office of National Drug Control Policy, the chairperson of the U.S.
9 senate and house of representatives agriculture committees and each member of the
10 Wisconsin congressional delegation.

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(END)