

County Industrial Hemp Resolution Adopted in Michigan

By MIHEMP

Dated: May 04, 2011

Presque Isle County Michigan Board of Commissioners vote unanimously adopt a resolution that seeks to ease restrictions on growing industrial hemp.

On April 28th 2011 the Presque Isle County Board of Commissioners voted five to nothing to adopt a resolution that seeks to ease restrictions on growing industrial hemp.

Presque Isle County is the first and only County in Michigan pass a resolution that deals with the Industrial Hemp Issue despite Michigan being a medical marijuana state.

The resolution was brought forth by Everett Swift, the executive director of the Michigan Industrial Hemp Education and Marketing Project (MIHEMP).

The only question asked before passage of the resolution came from Commissioner Carl Altman who asked Swift "why the resolution asks for the State to pass hemp laws that don't require federal applications, licenses, or fees?"

Swift Replied "because because the DEA will charge \$3000 for the application and then never approve it, We would rather see it regulated by the State or County and any licensing fees go to the State or County".

The resolution recognizes Industrial Hemp as the non-drug oilseed, and fiber variety of Cannabis and as a genetically distinct variety of Cannabis then marihuana.

The resolution also urges State/Federal Legislators, and the President's administration to recognize industrial hemp as a valuable agricultural commodity and to take steps to remove barriers in order to encourage the commercial production of the crop.

It also asks the Michigan Legislature to pass legislation to regulate industrial hemp farming under state laws and regulations, without requiring federal applications, licenses, or fees.

Swift said, "The Commissioners should be commended for taking the time to research the issue and make a decision based on the facts and common sense rather than fear and misconceptions. It is very rare to find, in most cases even those who are educated on the subject are afraid to say so out of fear."

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The Michigan Industrial Hemp Education and Marketing project, also known as MIHEMP is a Michigan nonprofit corporation working to expand Industrial Hemp as a natural resource for industrial and private enterprise in the State of Michigan.

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