

**RESOLUTION # 1**  
**INDUSTRIAL HEMP**

1           **WHEREAS**, industrial hemp (*cannabis sativa*) was a major industrial crop grown in  
2 America since the Colonial period, and was used for textiles, paper and rope, and continues  
3 to this day to be used in fiberboard, construction materials, protein for both humans and  
4 livestock, lubricating oils and energy-producing biomass; and

5           **WHEREAS**, there exists significant interest among New Jersey farmers in growing  
6 hemp as an alternative crop, as markets for products made from it continue to grow; and

7           **WHEREAS**, both industrial hemp and marijuana are classified as Schedule 1  
8 Substances under the Controlled Substances Act, and thus their cultivation and possession  
9 are illegal under federal law; and

10           **WHEREAS**, since the passage of the most recent federal Farm Bill in 2014, 33  
11 states have adopted industrial hemp laws, with varying degrees of research, pilot programs  
12 and commercial production programs, with only three of them (Minnesota, Pennsylvania and  
13 Kentucky) prohibiting commercial production until the federal government legalizes  
14 production, sale and distribution; and

15           **WHEREAS**, New Jersey has joined the list of states to authorize these programs,  
16 with the signing by the Governor in November 2018 of the “New Jersey Industrial Hemp Pilot  
17 Program,” which directs the Department of Agriculture to establish an industrial hemp pilot  
18 program to promote the research and cultivation of industrial hemp to the maximum extent  
19 permitted by federal law; and

20           **WHEREAS**, in states that have legalized industrial hemp, the federal Drug  
21 Enforcement Administration requires Class 1 registrations and permits for the importation of  
22 seeds and has no legal issues with fiber and grain production, limiting their primary concern  
23 to the extraction of cannabinoid oils, which concentrates the THC content of products for  
24 non-medical uses; and

25           **WHEREAS**, there is considerable variability in the THC content of different varieties  
26 of hemp plants, and it is dependent upon genetics, environment, seed set, flower maturity  
27 and harvest time, and industrial hemp must be of a THC content at or below 0.3 percent; and

28           **WHEREAS**, horticultural expertise is required to ensure that hemp production stays  
29 within legal bounds and that the seeds being imported into the state to grow it fall within  
30 those legal bounds.

31           **NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, that we, the delegates to the 104<sup>th</sup> State  
32 Agricultural Convention, assembled in Atlantic City, New Jersey, on February 6-7, 2019, do  
33 hereby acknowledge the work of the Legislature to pass and the Governor to sign legislation  
34 that provides opportunities for New Jersey farmers, through a pilot program to be created by  
35 the Department, to research, produce, process and market industrial hemp.

36           **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that we urge the Department to move with  
37 expediency to create the pilot program called for in the legislation passed by the Legislature  
38 and signed by the Governor.

39           **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that we urge the Department of Agriculture's Division  
40 of Plant Industry to perform inspections of growing facilities, both indoor and outdoor, the  
41 testing of seeds and other relevant laboratory tests, since the Division has been performing  
42 this duty under the state's medical marijuana program.