

Introduced by: Holmdahl, Mayor
Date: 02/14/17
Action: Adopted
Vote: 6 Yes, 3 No, 0 Absent

**KENAI PENINSULA BOROUGH
RESOLUTION 2017-018**

**A RESOLUTION SUPPORTING THE ENACTMENT OF SENATE BILL NO. 6
RELATING TO INDUSTRIAL HEMP AND CONTROLLED SUBSTANCES**

WHEREAS, Senator Shelley Hughes introduced Senate Bill No. 6 on January 28, 2017, which would effectively remove hemp from Alaska's list of controlled substances, provide that an affirmative defense to a prosecution for misconduct involving a controlled substance is that the controlled substance is industrial hemp, and would exempt manufacturing, delivering or displaying industrial hemp from the state licensing requirements governing marijuana; and

WHEREAS, industrial hemp is a variety of cannabis sativa that is primarily grown as an agricultural crop for use in a wide variety of products including food, cosmetics, fabrics, textiles, yarns, paper, construction and insulation materials, and numerous other products; and

WHEREAS, tetrahydrocannabinol ("THC") levels in hemp are generally less than one percent while THC levels for marijuana are reported to average about 10 percent or more according to a report by The Congressional Research Service, dated January 26, 2016 ("CRS Report"); and

WHEREAS, hemp production is controlled and regulated by the US Drug Enforcement Administration ("DEA") which authorizes certain research institutions and state departments of agriculture to grow industrial hemp for certain research purposes if allowed under the state laws but continues to list hemp as a Schedule I controlled substance; and

WHEREAS, according to the National Conference of State Legislatures, 30 states have legalized the cultivation of hemp for commercial, research or pilot programs; and

WHEREAS, according to the CRS Report about 30 countries in Europe, Asia and North and South American allow farmers to grow hemp; and

WHEREAS, in a public presentation to the Kenai Peninsula Borough assembly on September 20, 2016, a Homer resident identified many benefits of industrial hemp including its use to supply green response technology to oil and chemical cleanup teams, affordable housing in Alaska using industrial hemp for insulation and drywall and many other uses;


NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE ASSEMBLY OF THE KENAI PENINSULA BOROUGH:

SECTION 1. That the Kenai Peninsula Borough assembly supports the enactment of Senate Bill No. 6 relating to industrial hemp and controlled substances.

SECTION 2. That copies of this resolution shall be provided to Senator Shelley Hughes and members of the Kenai Peninsula Borough legislative delegation.


SECTION 3. That this resolution takes effect immediately upon its adoption.

ADOPTED BY THE ASSEMBLY OF THE KENAI PENINSULA BOROUGH THIS 14TH DAY OF FEBRUARY 2017.

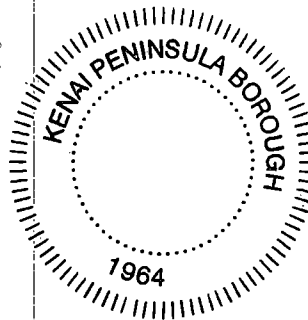


Kelly Cooper, Assembly President

ATTEST:



Johni Blankenship, MMC, Borough Clerk



Yes:

No:

Absent: