



The County of El Dorado

Community & Economic Development Advisory Committee

2850 Fairlane Court
Placerville, CA 95667-4197

To: El Dorado County Board of Supervisors
From: Community and Economic Development Advisory Committee (CEDAC)

RE: #22-1528 - Permanent Ban on Industrial Hemp

CEDAC recommends that the Board reject a Permanent Ban on industrial hemp cultivation and instead authorize the Chair to sign a Resolution of Intention to amend Title 130 of the County Zoning Ordinance to develop an ordinance to govern an Industrial Hemp Pilot Program.

The global Industrial Hemp market size is estimated at *USD 4.13 billion in 2021 and is expected to grow at a compound annual growth rate (CAGR) of 16.8% from 2022 to 2030. Industrial Hemp is a federally recognized, non-intoxicating, agricultural commodity that is produced for a wide range of products including, but not limited to: food, health and beauty products, textiles, building materials, medicine, industrial products, and paper. El Dorado County has ideal growing conditions for this crop to survive, thrive and become a viable addition to our diverse agricultural industry.

CEDAC, in conjunction with the Agricultural Commission, have worked diligently to research, analyze, and propose a very conservative, micro pilot program consisting of five (5) farms or less. If the Pilot Program Concept is approved on September 13, 2022, the timeline for the remaining process may have the Pilot Program ordinance taking effect before, or just after the December 7, 2022, expiration date of the Temporary Moratorium. If after, and without implementing a Permanent Ban, regulatory authority would default to the State of California and its rules governing Industrial Hemp.

The State of California, through California Department of Food and Agriculture (CDFA), has a comprehensive regulatory scheme governing the Industrial Hemp industry which includes agricultural policies, background checks, permitting and strict testing parameters for the detection of THC levels processed by certified D.E.A. laboratories. Local regulations are not mandatory to facilitate a Hemp industry. Counties who do not have a local regulatory scheme, and who do not have an ordinance that bans cultivation, would simply operate under the State's laws as is the case with most federally legal agricultural commodities such as grapes, apples, nuts, etc.

In the interest of economic development and the rights of local people to engage in a federally legal industry without undue burden, CEDAC opposes a permanent ban on Industrial Hemp. Reversing a permanent ban would require staff time, volunteer work and political momentum. A ban is unnecessarily onerous. Short of implementing local regulations allowing cultivation, our farmers should be allowed to move forward under the prudent and comprehensive regulations of the State of California.

*Industrial Hemp Market Size, Share & Trends Analysis Report
By Grand View Research