

According to a [2005 Congressional Research Service report](#), the U.S. remains the only developed nation that hasn't developed an industrial hemp crop for economic purposes. But, thanks to efforts in the states, that's starting to change.

There are three versions of hemp legislation that are being used successfully in states right now. Which one to choose is more of a strategic consideration than anything else.

**TAKE ACTION:** Contact your state rep AND senator – give them the three versions below (you can download each as pdf), and urge them to introduce the best one for your state. Find your [legislators' contact info at this link](#).

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### **OPTION 1: REMOVE INDUSTRIAL HEMP FROM LIST OF CONTROLLED SUBSTANCES** **([pdf here](#))**

By simply removing industrial hemp from your state's list of controlled substances, you open the door for cultivation and production. Taking away the specter of state prosecution clears away the biggest hurdle to developing a hemp industry in your state. While the possibility of federal prosecution remains, it is remote, and some farmers will accept the relatively limited risk if state barriers are removed.

If your state specifically counts industrial hemp as a controlled substance, this simply involves passing legislation to amend the controlled substances list to remove it. [This law passed by Connecticut in 2015](#) serves as a good starting point.

In some cases, it may be necessary to specifically declare hemp is not marijuana and therefore not subject regulation as a controlled substance.

*Example 1 - Marijuana does not include industrial hemp, as defined in 7 USC 5940, as amended from time to time.*

*Example 2 - Marijuana does not include Cannabis sativa L. and any part of the plant, whether growing or not, with a delta-9 tetrahydrocannabinol concentration of not more than 0.3 percent on a dry weight basis.*

### **OPTION 2: REMOVE FROM CONTROLLED SUBSTANCES AND CREATE LIMITED REGISTRATION STRUCTURE** ([pdf here](#))

You will further stimulate hemp cultivation in your state by not only removing it from the list of controlled substances, but also creating a limited state registration structure. This reassures the farmer that as far as the state is concerned, he is engaging in a permitted activity.

This type of legislation was enacted in Vermont and there is already a vibrant and growing hemp industry developing there just two years later.

***Model Legislation ([download pdf here](#))***

**OPTION 3: REMOVE FROM CONTROLLED SUBSTANCES AND CREATE FULL LICENSING AND REGULATORY STRUCTURE ([pdf here](#))**

This takes things beyond permitting and minimal regulation, and actually establishes a quick, orderly, efficient, farmer-friendly process to license industrial hemp growers, and permit them to distribute the crop in the marketplace.

This sends a strong message to growers that not only will the state allow them to grow hemp unmolested, but it is actively involved in developing and facilitating the industry. This is the surest way to ensure a vibrant hemp market develops despite federal prohibition.

Tennessee took this route. ([download their legislation here](#)) After just one year, everyday farmers are growing acres of industrial hemp throughout the state. The product is expected to hit the open market, and will be sold like any other industrial crop in the near future. The economic impact will be felt immediately in the form of jobs and paychecks.