

13-002-588

RESOLUTION

WHEREAS, any official position of the City of Los Angeles with respect to legislation, rules, regulations or policies proposed to or pending before a local, state or federal governmental body or agency must have first been adopted in the form of a Resolution by the City Council with the concurrence of the Mayor; and

WHEREAS, industrial hemp is a variety of the plant Cannabis Sativa L. and has been grown as a fiber and seed crop for centuries, currently grown in 30 countries; and

WHEREAS, hemp products are available in the U.S. marketplace as components of goods such as textiles, paper, and body care products; and

WHEREAS, under current State law, the definition of marijuana does not include the mature stalks of the plant, fiber produced from the stalks, oil or cake made from the seeds of the plant, any other compound, manufacture, salt, derivative, mixture, or preparation of the mature stalks; and

WHEREAS, currently pending before the State Senate is a bill, SB 566 (Leno), which would permit hemp to be grown in the State, upon federal approval, by defining "industrial hemp" to be excluded from the definition of "marijuana"; and

WHEREAS, SB 566 creates a new division under the Department of Food and Agriculture (CDFA) to regulate the development, growth, harvesting, and sale of industrial hemp seeds and the CDFA estimates that the bill would cost the State over \$3.1 million for personnel and operating expenses; and

WHEREAS, supporters of SB 566 cite market demand in the United States for hemp products has grown to \$500 million in 2012 and hemp growth improves soil conditions for agriculture; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Valerie Vantrees-Askren, Professor of Agricultural Economics at the University of Kentucky, recognized by many as the leading authority on hemp cultivation, disputes these facts and believes that American hemp farmers would be unable to compete with the heavily subsidized Chinese and European cultivation industries; and

WHEREAS, SB 566, "will undermine law enforcement efforts to curtail marijuana cultivation and result in increased costs in connection with the prosecution of marijuana trafficking cases;" and

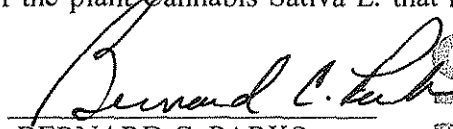
WHEREAS, legalizing hemp will allow marijuana cultivators to camouflage their illegal crop which raises numerous public safety concerns;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, with the concurrence of the Mayor, that upon the adoption of this Resolution, the City of Los Angeles hereby includes in its 2013-2014 State Legislative Program OPPOSITION to S.B. 566, The California Industrial Hemp Farming Act, which would permit hemp to be grown in the State, upon federal approval, by defining "industrial hemp" to be excluded from the definition of "marijuana" and to mean a nonpsychoactive type of the plant Cannabis Sativa L. that has no more than .3% THC contained in the dried flowering tops.

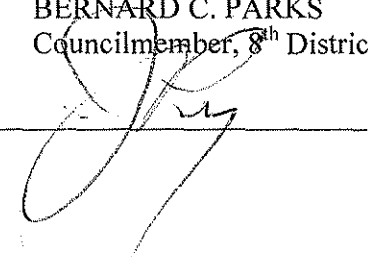


MAY 22 2013

PRESENTED BY:


BERNARD C. PARKS
Councilmember, 8th District

SECONDED BY



ORIGINAL