

Senate Resolution No. 5501

**BY:** Senator O'MARA

**RECOGNIZING** Hemp History Week, June 4-10, 2018

**WHEREAS,** This Legislative Body is justly proud to recognize Hemp History Week, June 4-10, 2018; and

**WHEREAS,** Hemp History Week, June 4-10, 2018, is an industry-wide initiative of the Hemp Industries Association (HIA) and Vote Hemp; and

**WHEREAS,** The HIA is a nonprofit trade group representing hemp companies, researchers, farmers and supporters; and

**WHEREAS,** Vote Hemp is a national, single-issue, non-profit advocacy group founded in 2000 by members of the hemp industry to remove barriers to industrial hemp farming in the United States through education, legislation and advocacy; and

**WHEREAS,** A bi-partisan effort has taken place at both the federal and state levels to pass legislation which would allow American farmers to compete with foreign nations in hemp production; and

**WHEREAS,** Industrial hemp refers to the non-drug oilseed and fiber varieties of the genus Cannabis which have less than three-tenths of one percent tetrahydrocannabinol (THC) and are cultivated for products derived from whole stalk, seed, and roots, including fiber, food, oil, and extracts; and

**WHEREAS,** The flowering tops of industrial hemp cannot produce any drug or intoxicating effect when inhaled or ingested; and

**WHEREAS,** The bill signed by Governor Andrew M. Cuomo (A9140/S7047-2014) defines industrial hemp as an agricultural product for the purposes of research pilot programs, in accordance with the language passed in the federal farm bill (Sec. 7606 of H.R. 2642; codified in 7 U.S.C. 5940), which legitimized state industrial hemp agricultural pilot research programs; and

**WHEREAS,** The 2016 New York State budget included provisions to allow for the growth, sale, distribution, transportation and processing of industrial hemp on an unlimited basis; and

**WHEREAS,** The Department of Agriculture and Markets formed the Industrial Hemp Work Group which includes academic partners, industry members, and State officials in an effort to advise the State on policies and initiatives that will help grow the industry; and

**WHEREAS,** Governor Cuomo convened the first Hemp Summit at Cornell University in 2017 where farmers, researchers, industry leaders, and State officials convened to explore new opportunities through industrial hemp research in New York State; and

**WHEREAS,** The New York State Legislature passed legislation in 2017 to allow that industrial hemp be considered an agricultural product and that it be treated the same way as other crops and seed in New York State; and

**WHEREAS,** Each year, American companies are forced to import millions of dollars' worth of hemp seed and fiber products annually from China, Canada, Europe, and other countries; and

**WHEREAS,** Nutritious hemp foods can be found in grocery stores nationwide and strong durable hemp fibers can be found in the interior parts of millions of American cars; and

**WHEREAS,** In addition, retail sales of hemp products nationwide in 2016 were estimated to be over \$688 million annually, and numerous buildings are being constructed using a long-lasting, energy-saving hemp and lime mixture which acts to sequester carbon; and

**WHEREAS,** The reluctance to permit industrial hemp farming is denying agricultural producers in this country the ability to benefit from an important crop which can provide significant economic benefits to producers and manufacturers; and

**WHEREAS,** The US relied upon hemp from the Mayflower to the U.S.S. Constitution and through every world war; and

**WHEREAS,** This great Empire State is poised to be a leader in hemp production, processing and manufacturing by the actions of the New York State Legislature; now, therefore, be it

**RESOLVED,** That this Legislative Body pause in its deliberations to recognize Hemp History Week, June 4-10, 2018.