AT A SPECIAL MEETING OF THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS OF THE COUNTY OF MONTGOMERY, VIRGINIA HELD ON THE 3RD DAY OF OCTOBER, 2011 AT 5:30 P.M. IN THE COUNTY ADMINISTRATION CONFERENCE ROOM, MONTGOMERY COUNTY GOVERNMENT CENTER, 755 ROANOKE STREET, CHRISTIANSBURG, VIRGINIA:

**R-FY-12-31**
**A RESOLUTION URGING THE 112TH CONGRESS TO ADOPT THE INDUSTRIAL HEMP FARMING ACT**

On a motion by Gary D. Creed, seconded by Doug Marrs and carried unanimously,

WHEREAS, The industrial hemp industry has recently experienced a revitalization with worldwide hemp sales continuing to increase; and

WHEREAS, Faltering agricultural economics in a number of states have created pressure to investigate alternative crops, including industrial hemp; and

WHEREAS, Industrial hemp's three raw materials – fiber, hurds and seeds, can be used in more than 25,000 products, including textiles, rope, cellulose plastics, resin, particle board, paper products, shampoo, vitamins and oil; and

WHEREAS, The histories of the United States and Virginia are replete with examples of the utility of and dependence on industrial hemp, which was legally cultivated in Virginia and many other states until the late 1930's; and

WHEREAS, Although industrial hemp is derived from the Cannabis Sativa plant, it is distinctive from its better known relative in that it contains less than one percent of the chemical responsible for its psychoactive properties; and

WHEREAS, Under the current Untied States drug policy, all Cannabis varieties, including hemp, are considered Schedule 1 controlled substances under the Controlled Substances Act and as such the growing of industrial hemp is controlled and strictly regulated by the U.S. Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA); and

WHEREAS, The growing of industrial hemp in the United States has been allowed only by a federal permit issued by the DEA, and the conditions of such a permit are so restrictive as to make the experimental cultivation of hemp essentially impossible; and

WHEREAS, The Virginia General Assembly has urged the federal government to revise the necessary regulations so as to permit the controlled experimental cultivation of industrial hemp in Virginia; and

WHEREAS, The National Farmers Union (NFU) has urged the President, Attorney General and Congress to direct the U.S. DEA to differentiate between industrial hemp and marijuana and adopt a policy to allow American farmers to grow industrial hemp under state law without requiring DEA licenses; and

WHEREAS, The National Association of State Departments of Agriculture support revisions to the federal rules and regulations authorizing commercial production of industrial hemp and has urged the DEA to develop and adopt an official definition of industrial hemp that comports with definitions currently used by Countries producing hemp; and

WHEREAS, The Industrial Hemp Farming Act (House Resolution 1831), has been introduced in Congress with the intention of removing Industrial Hemp as a Schedule 1 controlled substance under the Controlled Substance Act and allowing the State Legislatures to license and regulate the commercial production of hemp as an industrial and agricultural commodity; and

WHEREAS, The Montgomery County Board of Supervisors hereby supports the adoption of the Industrial Hemp Farming Act by Congress in order to facilitate the commercial cultivation of industrial hemp by granting the states the necessary authority to license and regulate the production of hemp as an industrial and agricultural commodity.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, By the Board of Supervisors of the County of Montgomery, Virginia that the Board of Supervisors hereby urges the 112th Congress to adopt the Industrial Hemp Farming Act and grant the States the authority to license and regulate the production of hemp as an industrial and agricultural commodity which in turn will open the market for farmers, businesses and entrepreneurs in the emerging and fast growing hemp industry.

The vote on the forgoing resolution was as follows:

| AYE | NAY |
|---|---|
| Gary D. Creed | None |
| Annette S. Perkins | |
| William H. Brown | |
| Mary W. Biggs | |
| Doug Marrs | |
| John A. Muffo | |
| James D. Politis | |

ATTEST: F. Craig Meadows

F. Craig Meadows
County Administrator