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alone, Colorado farmers planted 17,000 acres of hemp. It is being used as a sustainable alternative for fuel, paper, and plastic - and as lotion, medication, and even ice cream. Much of this growth is possible because a few years ago I was able to help pass a federal law to allow universities and state-run pilot programs to research and develop industrial hemp. But hemp, like marijuana, is still classified as Schedule I drug, to my dismay. There is hopeful news to report though. We are on the verge of another major legislative breakthrough. The Senate-version of the "Farm Bill" specifies that the federal government cannot use federal resources to interfere with states that have legalized and regulated hemp. The language is similar to my policy set forward in the Industrial Hemp Farming Act, and I am hopeful it will be accepted by the House of Representatives. If it is, it would be only the latest step toward finally lifting the federal prohibition on hemp. I'm thrilled we are on our way toward accepting hemp as the wonderful historic crop we know it to be. Check out my visit to a hemp farm in Evergreen earlier this summer here. I'm also still feverishly trying to finally end federal attempts to undermine our state's legalization of another part of the cannabis family, marijuana. Since the attorney general rescinded the Cole Memo at the beginning of the year, more and more members of Congress (Republicans and Democrats) have spoken out in defense of states that have legalized marijuana. I am attempting to push through any and every possible short-term fix, most recently sponsoring the STATES ACT, while also advocating for lifting the federal prohibition on marijuana once and for all with my Regulate Marijuana Like Alcohol Act, which would end federal prohibition once and for all. I'm hopeful that soon the prohibition on cannabis will be something for the history books (maybe even history books printed on hemp paper!) If this newsletter was helpful, please sign up to receive them more regularly here. In addition, please feel free to connect directly with me. If you'd like to get in touch, you can email me any time, call one of my offices, or send me a note through Facebook, Twitter, or Instagram. I greatly look forward to hearing from you! Sincerely, Jared Polis, Representative

WEBSITE | UNSUBSCRIBE | CONTACT

BOULDER OFFICE 1644 Walnut St. Boulder, CO 80302 Phone: (303) 484-9596 Fax: (303) 568-9007 **FORT COLLINS OFFICE** 1220 S. College Ave. Fort Collins, CO 80525 Phone: (970) 226-1239 Fax: (970) 226-8597 **FRISCO OFFICE** P.O. Box 1453 Frisco, CO 80443 Phone: (970) 409-7301 **WASHINGTON DC OFFICE** 1727 Longworth HOB Washington, D.C. 20515 Phone: (202) 225-2161 Fax: (202) 226-7840

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