WASHINGTON, February 5, 2014- After three years of negotiations, the Farm Bill passed both chambers of Congress on Tuesday. Hemp wasn't necessarily one of the largely debated topics. However, hidden deep within the bill, a clause lurked that allows for colleges and universities to grow hemp for research purposes pending the respective states have legalized hemp.

So far, Oregon, Montana, Colorado, North Dakota, California, Kentucky, Vermont, West Virginia and Maine have legalized hemp. Also, more than a dozen states are moving pro-hemp bills through their state legislatures this season.

The bill still has to be signed by Obama before becoming law. He is not expected to oppose it.

Tenth Amendment Center executive director Michael Boldin notes that it isn't "completely legal", but many states are already growing hemp regardless of the federal ban, and this move will certainly propel the movement to an unstoppable pace.

"Fields of hemp growing in Colorado already. Vermont legalized late last summer, and multiple other states are considering bills to do the same this year," said Boldin. "Credit doesn't go to the feds on this one. It belongs to the states, which had the courage to stand up to unconstitutional laws, and force the change on a national level."

The Tenth Amendment Center is a national think tank pushing for the passage of pro-hemp bills within each state.

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