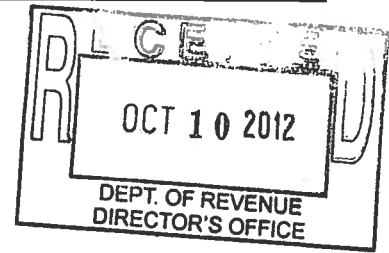




U. S. Department of Justice
Drug Enforcement Administration
8701 Morrissette Drive
Springfield, Virginia 22152

www.dea.gov

SEP 06 2012



Ms. Barbara J. Brohl
State of Colorado, Department of Revenue
State Capitol Annex
1375 Sherman Street, Room 409
Denver, Colorado 80261

Dear Ms. Brohl:

This responds to your letter dated December 22, 2011, to the Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA) Administrator Michele M. Leonhart regarding your support of the petition submitted by Governor Christine Gregoire and Governor Lincoln Chafee to move marijuana from Schedule I to Schedule II of the Controlled Substance Act. DEA will be evaluating the information that Governor Gregoire and Governor Chafee relied upon in their petition to DEA to move marijuana from Schedule I to Schedule II, pursuant to 21 Code of Federal Regulations § 1308.43(b).

It should be noted that the levels of marijuana use in the United States are steadily increasing. According to the 2010 National Survey on Drug Use and Health, 17.4 million Americans aged 12 years and older reported using marijuana in the past month. In 2010, approximately 2.4 million Americans aged 12 years and older used marijuana for the first time, which is an average of approximately 6,600 new users every day. According to the 2011 Monitoring the Future report, the number of current users of marijuana among 8th, 10th and 12th graders was at peak levels, the highest since 2002. In 2011, daily marijuana use markedly increased among all three grade levels, compared to 2009 data. In 2009, marijuana was involved in more than 376,000 emergency room visits nationwide, draining valuable local, state and federal resources. This sharp rise in the number of emergency room visits coincides with the increase in the potency of marijuana. These and other factors contribute to the significant strain of marijuana use on our healthcare system, and pose a considerable threat to the health and safety of the users, their families, and the communities as a whole. Again, under Federal law, marijuana remains a Schedule I substance with no currently accepted medical use.

If you have any further questions or concerns, please contact the Drug and Chemical Evaluation Section at (202) 307-7183.

Sincerely,

Joseph T. Rannazzisi
Deputy Assistant Administrator
Office of Diversion Control