

**Letter from the Former Administrators of the Drug Enforcement Administration
1973-2007**

September 7, 2012

The Honorable Eric H. Holder, Jr.
Attorney General of the United States
Department of Justice
950 Pennsylvania Ave. NW
Washington, DC 20530-0001

Dear Attorney General Holder:

We are former Administrators of the U.S. Drug Enforcement Administration who are once again writing you in 2012 to express our concern about state-level efforts to legalize marijuana, specifically Amendment 64 in Colorado, Initiative 502 in Washington, and Measure 80 in Oregon. All three of these initiatives would legalize the production, possession and sale of marijuana, in direct violation of the Controlled Substances Act (CSA). As stated in our letter to you on August 24, 2010, the CSA clearly states that federal law trumps state laws when there is a conflict.

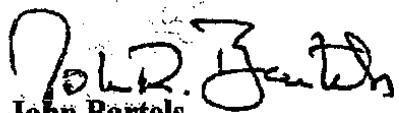
Since these initiatives would "tax and regulate" marijuana, there is a clear and direct conflict with federal law.

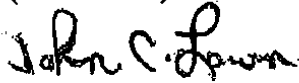
We were encouraged by your stance against Proposition 19 in California, and by the President's clear public statements, most recently at the Summit of the Americas, when he remarked that "legalization is not something I or my administration supports."


We urge you to oppose publicly Amendment 64 in Colorado, Initiative 502 in Washington, and Measure 80 in Oregon. To continue to remain silent conveys to the American public and the global community a tacit acceptance of these dangerous initiatives.


We would be happy to meet with you on this matter. Regardless, we urge you to take a public position on these initiatives as soon as possible. We look forward to hearing from you.

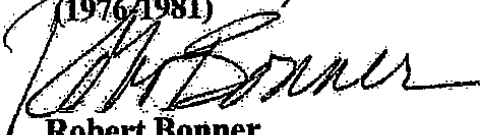
Sincerely,


John Bartels
(1973-1975)



Jack Lawn
(1985-1990)

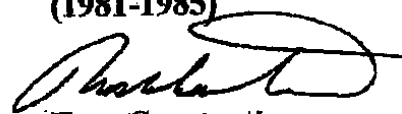

Donnie Marshall
(2000-2001)


Peter Bensing
(1976-1981)


Robert Bonner
(1990-1993)


Asa Hutchinson
(2001-2003)


Francis Mullen
(1981-1985)


Tom Constantine
(1994-1999)


Karen Tandy
(2003-2007)

The above individuals served as Administrators of the United States Drug Enforcement Administration, from 1973 to 2007 under both Democratic and Republican Administrations.