

**DEAR COLLEAGUE LETTER SENT BY JOHN OLVER AND DANA ROHRABACHER**

May 16, 2007

Dear Colleague:

Please join us in sending a letter to the Drug Enforcement Administration's Administrator Karen P. Tandy urging her agency to accept DEA Administrative Law Judge Mary Ellen Bittner's February 12, 2007 Opinion and Recommended Ruling. Judge Bittner concluded that it would be in the public interest for DEA to approve the application of Professor Lyle Craker, Director of the Medicinal Plant Program at the University of Massachusetts-Amherst's Department of Plant, Soil and Insect Sciences, for a DEA Schedule I license to produce marijuana for FDA-approved research at DEA-licensed laboratories.

At present, the National Institute on Drug Abuse (NIDA) has a unique monopoly on the production of marijuana for legitimate medical and research purposes in the United States. Judge Bittner found this monopoly to be unjustified, since federal law clearly requires adequate competition in the manufacture of Schedule I and II substances. (See 21 U.S.C. § 823(a)(1); see also 21 C.F.R. § 1301.33(b).)

The University of Massachusetts-Amherst is one of the nation's distinguished research universities, and it is highly qualified to manufacture marijuana for legitimate medical and research purposes with effective controls against diversion.

Granting a license to Prof. Craker would allow the initiation of privately-funded FDA-approved research designed to evaluate the safety and efficacy of marijuana for patients undergoing chemotherapy or suffering from AIDS, glaucoma, multiple sclerosis, or other diseases.

DEA Administrator Tandy's predecessor, DEA Administrator Robert Bonner, stated, "Those who insist that marijuana has medical uses would serve society better by promoting or sponsoring more legitimate scientific research, rather than throwing their time, money and rhetoric into lobbying public relations campaigns and perennial litigation." Please join us in urging the DEA to accept Judge Bittner's recommendation that it would be in the public interest for DEA to grant Prof. Craker's application for registration as a bulk manufacturer so that such legitimate and privately-funded scientific research will be conducted.

If you would like to sign the letter to DEA Administrator Tandy, please contact Brendan Boundy in Rep. Olver's office at 5-5335 or [Brendan.Boundy@mail.house.gov](mailto:Brendan.Boundy@mail.house.gov), or Maureen Muncy in Rep. Rohrabacher's office at 5-2415 or [Maureen.Muncy@mail.house.gov](mailto:Maureen.Muncy@mail.house.gov).

Respectfully,

John Olver  
Member of Congress

Dana Rohrabacher  
Member of Congress