

Congress of the United States

Washington, DC 20515

January 12, 2018

The Honorable Paul D. Ryan
Speaker
U.S. House of Representatives
H-232 U.S. Capitol Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Nancy Pelosi
Minority Leader
U.S. House of Representatives
H-204 U.S. Capitol
Washington, D.C. 20515

Chairman Rodney P. Frelinghuysen
Committee on Appropriations
H-305 U.S. Capitol
Washington, D.C. 20515

Ranking Member Nita Lowey
Committee on Appropriations
1016 LHOB
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Speaker Ryan, Minority Leader Pelosi, Chairman Frelinghuysen and Ranking Member Lowey:

We write regarding funding for the Department of Justice in any FY 2018 appropriations legislation. Specifically, we are concerned with several attempts to apply federal law upon commerce related to cannabis that is conducted entirely within the boundaries of states that have legalized such commerce.

While the federal government is legitimately empowered to regulate interstate commerce, the measures adopted by states such as California, Oregon and Colorado are aimed solely at intrastate commerce and as such should not be interfered with. Indeed, this is exactly the mechanism Louis Brandeis referred to when he wrote of the states as laboratories for innovation and experimentation.

While our proposed funding language does nothing to diminish the authority of the federal government to interdict or forbid the interstate transport of marijuana, it respects the Constitutional authority for states to regulate commerce within their own borders.

We ask that any forthcoming appropriations or funding bill include the following language:

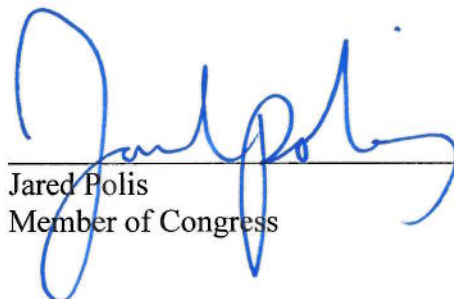
None of the funds made available by this act to the Department of Justice may be used, with respect to any of the States of Alabama, Alaska, Arizona, Arkansas, California, Colorado, Connecticut, Delaware, Florida, Georgia, Hawaii, Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Kentucky, Louisiana, Maine, Maryland, Massachusetts, Michigan, Minnesota, Mississippi, Missouri, Montana, Nebraska, Nevada, New Hampshire, New Jersey, New Mexico, New York, North Carolina, North Dakota, Ohio, Oklahoma, Oregon, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island, South Carolina, Tennessee, Texas, Utah, Vermont, Virginia, Washington, West Virginia, Wisconsin, and Wyoming, to prevent any of them from implementing their own laws that authorize the use, distribution, possession, or cultivation of marijuana on non-Federal lands within their respective jurisdictions.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,



Tom McClintock
Member of Congress



Jared Polis
Member of Congress



Salud O. Carbajal
Member of Congress



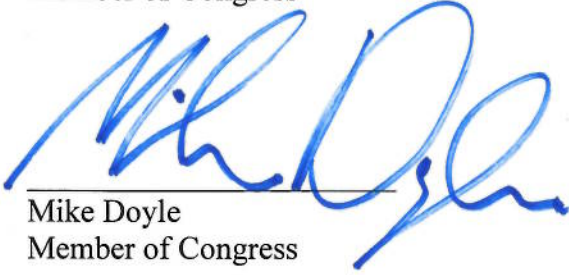
Scott Tipton
Member of Congress



Mike Thompson
Member of Congress




Ted W. Lieu
Member of Congress




Mike Doyle
Member of Congress



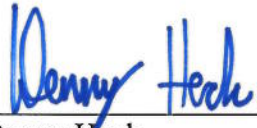
Jacky Rosen
Member of Congress



Jason Lewis
Member of Congress



Colleen Hanabusa
Member of Congress



Denny Heck
Member of Congress




James P. McGovern
Member of Congress



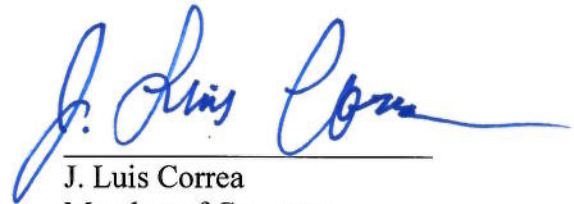
Suzanne Bonamici
Member of Congress



Matt Gaetz
Member of Congress



Ro Khanna
Member of Congress



J. Luis Correa
Member of Congress



Rod Blum
Member of Congress



Earl Blumenauer
Member of Congress



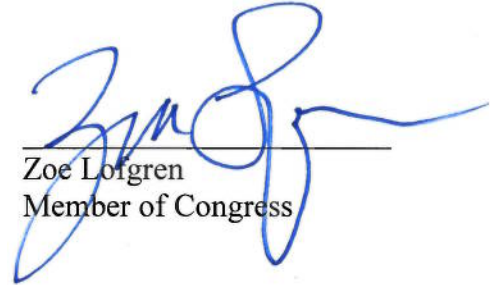
Don Beyer
Member of Congress




Ken Buck
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Beto O'Rourke
Member of Congress



Zoe Lofgren
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Carlos Curbelo
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Jared Huffman
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Seth Moulton
Member of Congress



Ed Perlmutter
Member of Congress



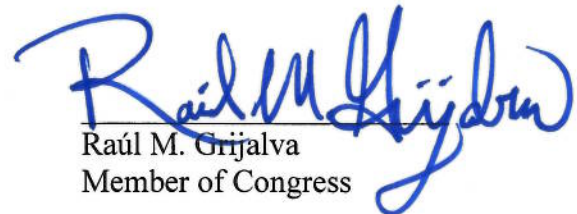
Michael Capuano
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Mark Pocan
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Darren Soto
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Raúl M. Grijalva
Member of Congress



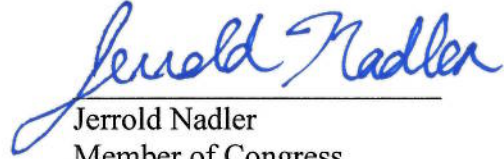
Juan Vargas
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Niki Tsongas
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Jim Costa
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Jerrold Nadler
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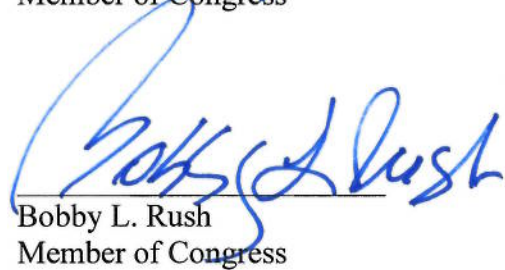
Diana DeGette
Member of Congress



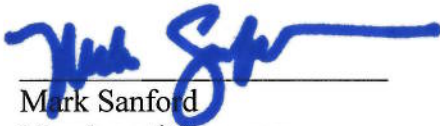
Peter DeFazio
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Chellie Pingree
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Bobby L. Rush
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Mark Sanford
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Betty McCollum
Member of Congress



Adam Smith
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Jerry McNerney
Member of Congress



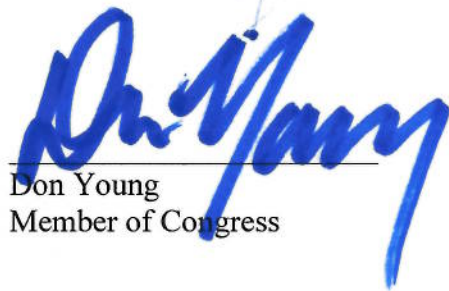
Barbara Lee
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Dana Rohrabacher
Member of Congress



Tim Walz
Member of Congress



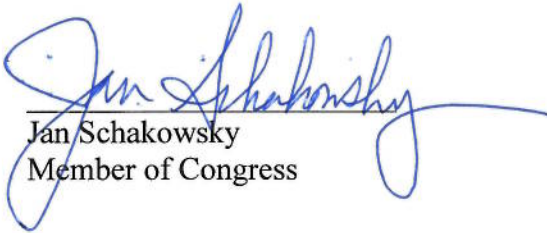
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Jan Schakowsky
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Gregorio Kilili Camacho Sablan
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Steve Cohen
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Kurt Schrader
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Mike Coffman
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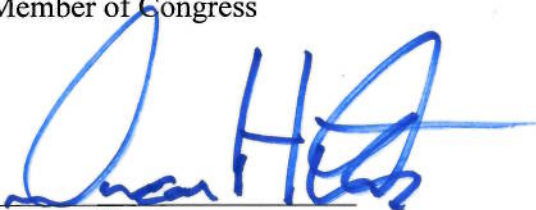
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Dina Titus
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Madeleine Bordallo
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Duncan Hunter
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Derek Kilmer
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Tulsi Gabbard

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Brad Sherman

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Brendan F. Boyle

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