DEA Administrator Karen P. Tandy  
Drug Enforcement Administration  
Mailstop: AXS  
2401 Jefferson Davis Highway  
Alexandria, VA 22301

Dear Administrator Tandy,

We are writing to express our strong support for the application from Professor Craker, of the University of Massachusetts-Amherst, for licensing as a bulk manufacturer of marijuana for distribution exclusively to federally-approved researchers. We believe DEA licensing of Prof. Craker's privately-funded facility would be in the public interest.

At present, the National Institute on Drug Abuse (NIDA) has an unjustifiable monopoly on the production of marijuana for legitimate medical and research purposes in the United States, grown under contract to NIDA at the University of Mississippi. 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 licensing of Prof. Craker's facility would provide privately-funded sponsors of FDA-approved research the necessary opportunity to conduct studies with a strain of marijuana of their own choosing, with immediate access to that strain for all FDA-approved studies and for possible prescription use. None of this is the case under NIDA's monopoly. Until an alternative source of supply is available, important privately-funded research into the therapeutic effects of marijuana for patients undergoing chemotherapy or suffering from AIDS, glaucoma, multiple sclerosis, or other diseases will not be initiated.

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. NIDA's monopoly makes very little sense given that the DEA has licensed privately-funded manufacturers of virtually all other Schedule I drugs, including LSD, MDMA (Ecstasy), and psilocybin.
As one of your predecessors, 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." We urge you to grant Prof. Craker's application for registration as a bulk manufacturer so that such legitimate and privately-funded scientific research can be conducted.

Respectfully,

John W. Olver  Michael Capuano
Member of Congress  Member of Congress

Barney Frank  Dennis Kucinich
Member of Congress  Member of Congress

Tammy Baldwin  Ed Pastor
Member of Congress  Member of Congress

Barbara Lee  Sam Farr
Member of Congress  Member of Congress

Maurice Hinchey  Ron Paul
Member of Congress  Member of Congress

Sheila Jackson-Lee  James P. McGovern
Member of Congress  Member of Congress
Raúl M. Grijalva
Member of Congress

Jim McDermott
Member of Congress

John Lewis
Member of Congress

Jan Schakowsky
Member of Congress

Jesse Jackson, Jr.
Member of Congress

Peter DeFazio
Member of Congress

Lee Ann Lofgren
Member of Congress

James Oberstar
Member of Congress

Carolyn Maloney
Member of Congress

Lynne Woolsey
Member of Congress

John F. Tierney
Member of Congress

John Conyers
Member of Congress

Robert Wexler
Member of Congress

Henry A. Waxman
Member of Congress

Martin Olav Sabo
Member of Congress

George Miller
Member of Congress
David Price
Member of Congress

Rosa DeLauro
Member of Congress

Dana Rohrabacher
Member of Congress

Pete Stark
Member of Congress

Robert E. Andrews
Member of Congress

Sherrod Brown
Member of Congress

Edolphus Towns
Member of Congress

Jim Moran
Member of Congress

Mike Honda
Member of Congress

Jerrold Nadler
Member of Congress