



Dear Congressional leaders,

We are writing you today as professional industry associations representing cannabis business owners in states across our country. As you are aware, the recent decision by Attorney General Jeff Sessions to rescind the Cole Memorandum has led to much debate about the future of numerous legal cannabis marketplaces in several states, where regulated systems are flourishing. We share Senator Gardner's concern when he said, following Attorney General Sessions decision: "With no prior notice to Congress, the Justice Department has trampled on the will of the voters in CO and other states."

Countless law-abiding businesses have invested hundreds of millions of dollars in the State-regulated cannabis industry that experts estimate to be worth close to \$10 billion dollars today. More than 60% of Americans live in states with access to legal cannabis products for medical and non-medical use. We urge you to consider action that would protect the far safer legal and regulated marketplaces in our country that are replacing unsafe, unregulated and untaxed black markets of the recent past.

We commend Representatives Rohrabacher and Blumenauer for their work to protect medical marijuana businesses from any federal legal actions. Unfortunately, following Attorney General Sessions decision to rescind the Cole Memorandum, it is no longer sufficient to protect only medical marijuana. Without the Cole Memorandum, there are no federal protections for legal cannabis businesses operating in regulated recreational marketplaces in our states.

We ask that you include language to protect State-regulated Cannabis operations in the FY19 Appropriations Bill to be considered this month by Congress so that we can protect businesses that are upholding a safer, legal and regulated cannabis marketplace in our states. This language should read:

The Department of Justice shall not expend federal funds that would prevent states from implementing their own State laws that authorize the use, distribution, possession or cultivation of Cannabis.

This language would not legalize marijuana at the federal level, but it would protect business owners, recreational consumers, and patients from the fear of federal action while operating in a legal, safe cannabis marketplace in our states or any other future state that creates a regulatory framework for cannabis.

Sincerely,



HAWAII DISPENSARY
ALLIANCE



OREGON
CANNABIS
BUSINESS COUNCIL