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Michael Courlander
Public Information Specialist
U.S. Sentencing Commission
Suite 2-500 South Lobby
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Washington, DC 20002-8002

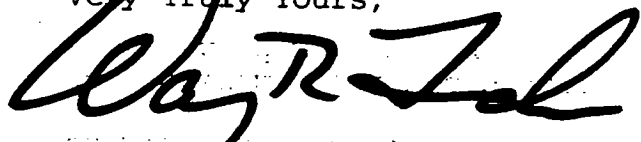
Dear Mr. Courlander:

Regarding the Marijuana Amendment to the Federal Sentencing Guidelines, I support the Marijuana Amendment establishing a 100-gram-per-plant equivalency for fifty or more plants, regardless of how many plants are grown, and that this change be made retroactive.

As a criminal defense practitioner in federal courts, I have represented many young people accused of violation of controlled substances laws. The marijuana equivalency tables in the current Federal Sentencing Guidelines are draconian at best and make no sense when considered vis-à-vis the growing of a fewer number of plants than fifty. The extrapolation of the current guidelines from the applicable mandatory minimum is not required by statute and creates penalties wholly disproportionate to the actual harm involved.

I strongly urge the Commission to accept the amendment which establishes a hundred-gram-per-plant equivalency for fifty or more plants, regardless of how many plants are grown, to the current marijuana sentencing guideline chart.

Very Truly Yours,



Waring R. Fincke
Attorney at Law

WRF:dlt