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BUSINESS ALLIANCE FOR COMMERCE IN HEMP

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From: Chris Conrad, Global Operations Director

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To: United States Sentencing Commission
One Columbus Circle, N.E.
Suite 2-500, South Lobby
Washington, D.C. 20002-8002

Re: Marijuana Plant Weight Amendment

Date: January 20, 1995

Dear Commissioners,

I will not mince words; the Draconian penalties against marijuana are an egregious injustice and an affront to God, nature and humanity. Remember that Speaker Newt Gingrich, Supreme Court Justice Clarence Thomas and President Bill Clinton all smoked marijuana.

This March you have an opportunity to do something right for America by throwing out the sentencing guidelines altogether, or at least reducing the weight calculations for cannabis plants. Our organization wishes to testify at the next hearings on sentencing guidelines.

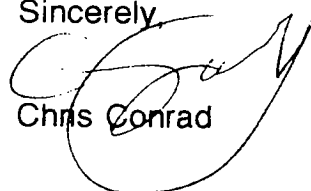
The current guideline that assumes a cannabis plant produces a kilogram of marijuana is an utter fraud that inflicts cruel injustice upon decent American citizens. Having studied legal growing operations in Holland, we know that a typical female plant only yields from 28 to 100 grams, and that half of all plants grown from seed are males which have no market value whatsoever. Since juries are told to judge the defendant based on fact, the actual weight of the flowering female product is the only honest way to gauge the amount of marijuana produced in any given garden. If any other standard should apply, it would be to discount half the plants as being male, and calculate the remainder at between 28 and 100 grams of product. Even this is an "optimistic" figure, but at least closer to actual fact.

BACH is firmly committed to the concept that capitalism is a good thing and that free enterprise is the best solution to the problems that plague society. The war on marijuana is a colossal failure that adds over \$8 billion per year to our national debt. By relegalizing adult consumption of marijuana and regulating it like alcohol, we can add over \$10 billion back to our economy. Such a policy could be designed to conform with international law, as I would be more than happy to explain. Please set aside a time for me at your hearing.

This is your opportunity to do something good for everyone. We hope that you will show the integrity and good sense to reduce or eliminate the sentencing guidelines.

Thank you once again.

Sincerely,



Chris Conrad

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