

[NOTE: ORIGINAL LETTER ON DEA LETTERHEAD. THIS IS RETYPED.]

U.S. Department of Justice
Drug Enforcement Administration
Washington, DC 20537

March 4, 2003

Dr. Lyle E. Craker
University of Massachusetts
Department of Plant and Soil Sciences
Amherst, Massachusetts 01003

Dear Dr. Craker,

The Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA) is currently reviewing your pending manufacturing application for marihuana and tetrahydrocannabinols (THC), DEA Drug Code Numbers 7360 and 7370 respectively. I understand that a Diversion Investigator was recently at the University to discuss the proposed activities.

Based on the information provided to this office as a result of these meetings, it appears that the basis for your application is the purported need for a higher potency and higher "quality" marijuana product than that currently available from the National Institute on Drug Abuse (NIDA).

The DEA continues to have international treaty and legal concerns regarding your application. However, the DEA also disagrees with your assessment regarding the availability of marijuana acceptable to the research community. We have no credible evidence to support this assessment. The DEA has contacted NIDA, the Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS) and some current researchers to evaluate your assessment. We have determined that there is currently a high potency marijuana product (i.e. 7%-8% THC) available for bona fide research protocols and that the quality of marijuana available from NIDA is acceptable. In the future, should federally-approved research protocols require a higher potency marijuana (i.e. 15% THC), all believe that it could be supplied by NIDA.

We have received a copy of the letter from Dr. Ethan Russo, who has not been registered by the DEA to conduct research with marijuana, and are not persuaded by his arguments. Therefore, in order to further consider your application, please provide this office with any credible evidence to support your assessment of this issue. Or particular interest would be any correspondence with NIDA on this matter.

Sincerely,

Frank Sapienza, Chief
Drug & Chemical Evaluation Section

cc. Dean, University of Massachusetts
Hartford RAC Office