

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510-2101

April 29, 2009

The Honorable David W. Ogden
Deputy Attorney General
United States Department of Justice
950 Pennsylvania Ave., NW
Washington, D.C. 20530

Dear Deputy Attorney General Ogden,

We're writing to urge you to take immediate action before May 1st to delay a final decision on the application by Professor Lyle Craker of the University of Massachusetts Amherst to produce research-grade marijuana for use in federally approved clinical trials.

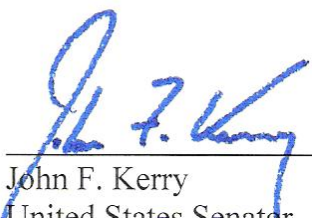
University of Massachusetts Amherst is one of the nation's distinguished research universities, and is highly qualified to manufacture marijuana for legitimate medical and research purposes. However, on January 14, 2009, in the final days of the Bush Administration, DEA Deputy Administrator Leonhart published in the Federal Register a Final Order denying Professor Craker's application to produce marijuana exclusively for use by federally approved researchers. If no action is taken by DEA, the Order will go into effect May 1, 2009. We apologize for the last minute nature of this request, but we respectfully ask that you delay a finalization of this Order until the President's DEA appointees are sworn into office and can thoroughly review the record on Professor Craker's application.

Thank you for your consideration of our request.

With respect and appreciation,

Sincerely,


Edward M. Kennedy
United States Senator


John F. Kerry
United States Senator