|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| |  |  | | --- | --- | | **For Immediate Release:** | **Contact:** [Neal A. Patel](mailto:neal_patel@heller.senate.gov) | | March 1, 2017 | 202-224-6244 |   **Heller Asks Attorney General to Respect the Voice of Nevadans when Enforcing Drug Laws**  **(Washington, DC)** – Recently, U.S. Senator Dean Heller (R-NV) sent to Attorney General Jeff Sessions asking him to only enforce the Cole Memorandum, and respect Nevada’s state sovereignty.  A PDF copy of the letter can be found [here](http://www.heller.senate.gov/public/_cache/files/a5c92f64-21ee-47c3-816e-fb5ced068b59/Heller%20Letter%20to%20Attorney%20General%20Sessions%203.1.17.pdf).  **Full text of letter to President Donald J. Trump:**  Attorney General Jeff Sessions  U.S. Department of Justice  950 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW  Washington, DC 20530  Dear Attorney General Sessions:  I write to you today regarding the federal government’s enforcement of the Controlled Substances Act (CSA). I appreciate your attention to this important matter.  During your nomination process to be Attorney General, I was pleased that we had the opportunity to meet and discuss issues important to my home state, including federal marijuana enforcement. As you well know, Nevada voters passed a measure last year to provide for the legalization of recreational marijuana. In 2000, Nevadans voted to authorize qualified patients to consume medical marijuana. While I maintain that, unlike medical marijuana, I have serious concerns on whether or not the benefits of recreational marijuana outweigh the drawbacks, I recognize and respect the will of Nevadans.  Under the principles of federalism and through guidance issued by the Department of Justice (DOJ) on August 29, 2013, by Deputy Attorney General James M. Cole regarding federal marijuana enforcement, states like Nevada have been able to pursue an alternative approach to regulating marijuana. By directing the DOJ to use its limited investigative and prosecutorial resources for certain enforcement priorities, the Cole Memorandum allows the most egregious violations of the CSA and circumstances of true federal interest to be prioritized.  In light of recent statements regarding a possible change in federal marijuana enforcement policy and knowing your views about and deference to states’ rights, I respectfully ask that you preserve the Cole Memorandum. Should the DOJ plan to rescind or replace the Cole Memorandum, I would also encourage you to meet with key officials from states like Nevada that have legalized marijuana to discuss how this policy would impact them prior to making any such changes.  Again, I appreciate your attention to this important matter. I welcome the opportunity to work with you on this issue.  Sincerely,  DEAN HELLER  U.S. Senator  ###  [http://www.heller.senate.gov/public/vendor/_skins/heller/images/newsletter/icon_fb.png](http://www.facebook.com/pages/US-Senator-Dean-Heller/325751330177) [http://www.heller.senate.gov/public/vendor/_skins/heller/images/newsletter/icon_tw.png](http://twitter.com/SenDeanHeller) [http://www.heller.senate.gov/public/vendor/_skins/heller/images/newsletter/icon_yt.png](http://www.youtube.com/user/SenDeanHeller) |