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September 17, 2003

John Walters, Director
Office of National Drug Control Policy
The White House
via fax 301-519-5212

Dear Mr. Walters:

I was pleased to hear that at your September 10 news conference in Seattle, you said, "The real issue is should we legalize marijuana? Let's have a national debate about that."

You were absolutely correct when you told your Seattle audience that marijuana policy has never been properly and thoroughly debated in this country. It's time to have that debate, so I am pleased to accept your invitation.

I propose that you and I immediately agree to hold a public debate within the next six months in the vicinity of Washington, D.C. The time and place should be suitable for national television coverage, and the debate should be moderated by a neutral journalist chosen by mutual agreement.

I am confident that your offer represents a genuine desire to move past the demonization of those who disagree with your policies by finally having an honest debate about the impact of marijuana prohibition. I have no doubt that — once armed with all of the facts — the American people will make wise choices.

Please have your staff contact my executive assistant, Jen Grizard, at 202-462-5747 ext. 271 as soon as possible so that we can begin making the necessary arrangements. I look forward to working with you on this effort.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Robert D. Kampia". The signature is fluid and cursive.

Robert D. Kampia
Executive Director

"Minimize the harm associated with marijuana."