

September 18, 2014

Office of the Pardon Attorney  
1425 New York Avenue, N.W.  
Suite 11000  
Washington, D.C. 20530

To The Office of the Pardons Attorney:

**I am writing in support of clemency for federal prisoner Christopher Williams, number 11839-046.** I have been aware of his case for some time and feel that a great injustice has been done. Mr. Williams has been sentenced to more prison time than any other citizen subjected to the federal raids of 2011.

Christopher Williams is serving a sentence for a non-violent crime that has no victims. In fact, Mr. Williams is in prison for providing help to many sick and some terminally ill citizens. Mr. Williams has no victims or restitution in this case. **During his trial and sentencing, federal judge Dana Christensen made clear that the court did not consider him in violation of Montana's medical marijuana act.** It is often mentioned in testimony that Christopher William's company set the gold standard for operating an "above board", legal state medical marijuana business. Mr. Williams relied on statements by President Obama, Attorney General Holder and the Department of Justice, when starting his medical marijuana company. To further comply with state law and operate within federal policy as set forth by the Department of Justice, Mr. Williams formed a partnership with an attorney and one of the individuals who wrote Montana's medical marijuana act. These facts are made very clear in the documentary *Code of the West* which outlines the circumstances around the raids of 2011 in Montana and the eventual indictment of Mr. Williams.

As a result of Mr. Williams exercising his right to a jury trial, his sentence is vastly disparate of his co-defendants. Even through many of the individuals subject to the federal raids in 2011 were more culpable than Mr. Williams, he has been sentenced to a harsher sentence. **Even during sentencing, federal judge Dana Christensen expressed regret and reservation about having his decision forced by mandatory minimum sentencing guidelines.**

Under current policy and enforcement I do not think that Christopher Williams would have been charged or sentenced to such a harsh penalty. While many citizens in the districts of Colorado and Washington actively participate in sales and distribution of recreational marijuana, Mr. Williams continues to serve an unjust, unconstitutional sentence. This does not represent equal protection under the law. Please take the time to consider all the details of this case, including many of the salient facts that support clemency which I have not introduced.

Further support of Mr. Williams' character and respect for the law shows in his impeccable prison record, including his completion of the 500 hour residential drug abuse program and continued efforts of education and the fact that Mr. Williams accepted full responsibility for his actions. I beg that you show him mercy and grant him clemency.

Sincerely,