



# NATIONAL SHERIFFS' ASSOCIATION

February 15, 2011

The Honorable Devin Nunes  
United States House of Representatives  
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Congressman Nunes,

On behalf of the National Sheriffs' Association (NSA), I write to express our support for the Federal Lands Counterdrug Strategy Act. The strategy outlined within this legislation, provides the critical steps needed to combat and eradicate the cultivation and trafficking of illegal drugs throughout the nation's forest and park lands.

The cultivation and trafficking of illegal drugs on forest and park lands has become increasingly problematic as drug traffickers have steadily become more aggressive and destructive. Well-armed drug traffickers and their booby traps place both law enforcement and the public at great risk of harm when encountered. Furthermore, the growth methods being used have caused and continue to cause serious environmental damage to forest and park lands across the United States through water pollution; stream diversion; hazardous chemical use and dumping; and clear cutting.

The Federal Lands Counterdrug Strategy Act requires the Office of National Drug Control Policy (ONDCP) to develop a national strategy to: prevent the illegal production, cultivation, manufacture, and trafficking of controlled substances on covered lands; outline the specific roles of relevant agencies, including the National Drug Control Program agencies, the Forest Service, the National Park Service, and the Bureau of Land Management, for implementing the strategy; and identify the resources needed by these agencies to implement the strategy. The bill also mandates that the strategy would outline ways to reduce the cultivation and trafficking of illegal drugs on forest and park lands; examine how available technology can be utilized to reduce the trafficking of illegal drugs on these lands; and examine how federal land management statutes impact law enforcement efforts to combat this epidemic.

Congressman Nunes, we thank you for your efforts to assist law enforcement in the protection of our nation's majestic forest and park lands from illegal drug cultivations and traffickers. The National Sheriffs' Association looks forward to working with you to secure the passage of the Federal Lands Counterdrug Strategy Act.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "B.J. Roberts".

Sheriff B.J. Roberts  
President