



## NEWS RELEASE

January 18, 2013

For Additional Information:

Natalie Podgorski, Meridian Communications Manager

(208) 489-0538

### **Idaho Cities Urge President Obama to Stop Marijuana Legalization**

*Meridian, ID - (January , 2013)* – Representatives from 80 Idaho communities sent a strong message to President Barack Obama this week – enforce federal laws and have a consistent and clear national drug-free policy. The cities, all members of the Association of Idaho Cities (AIC), wrote a letter to Obama urging him to take action in Colorado and Washington.

During the November election, Colorado and Washington both passed ballot initiatives that legalize marijuana for recreational use. The Obama administration opposes legalizing marijuana. However, the President has said he will not go after recreational marijuana users. The representatives from the Idaho communities feel allowing some states to legalize marijuana is a disaster for our country and the worldwide war against drugs.

“Colorado and Washington’s actions reach far beyond state lines. This is an issue that affects all of us, no matter where we live,” said Meridian Mayor Tammy de Weerd the Chair of the AIC Drug Task Force. “We are sending the wrong message to our kids that there is no harm to smoking marijuana. It’s proven that one out of six teenagers who start smoking marijuana will become addicted to this crude street drug that can contain over 400 chemicals. As a state and as communities we need to take a stand against the social and economic chaos that others have experienced when they elect to legalize this controlled substance.”

Wednesday night at a Legislative Town Hall meeting held in Meridian, information was presented to members of the House and Senate leadership as well as legislators from district 14, 20, and 22 about the letter and the efforts of the AIC Drug Task force. Attendees were provided a draft of a resolution which will be considered by AIC on January 31, 2013. The resolutions ask the Idaho State Legislature and the Governor to send a similar message to the President through a Joint Memorial requesting the federal government take appropriate action to enforce federal drug laws in all states and uphold international treaties relating to the control of illegal drugs in the world.

The letter sent to the President was signed by more than 130 people, including 44 mayors, 47 councilmembers and 15 police chiefs from 80 cities in Idaho. A copy of the letter and a list of the AIC members who signed it are attached.

# # #

*The City of Meridian is located at the center of the Treasure Valley in southwest Idaho, minutes from the State Capitol. Founded in 1893 and incorporated as a city in 1903, Meridian is now one of Idaho's largest and fastest growing communities. As the home to many young families, Meridian is a vibrant community whose mission is to be a premier city to live, work and raise a family and was selected in 2010 by Family Circle Magazine as one of their Top 10 Best Cities for Families, by Money Magazine as one of its 100 Best Places to Live, and by America's Promise Alliance and ING as one of the nation's 100 Best Communities for Young People. For more information about Meridian, visit [www.meridiacity.org](http://www.meridiacity.org).*



January 14, 2013

The Honorable Barack Obama  
President of the United States of America  
The White House  
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue NW  
Washington, DC 20500

Dear President Obama:

We are writing today concerning issues raised by the passage of ballot initiatives in the states of Colorado (Amendment 64) and Washington (Initiative 502) to legalize marijuana for recreation use. This outcome is not only a disaster for our country, but for many parts of the world that are our partners in the war against drugs. We appreciate your administration's stance against the legalization of marijuana. However, in light of the passage of the Colorado and Washington ballot initiatives we request you reiterate this position in order to have a consistent, clear, and direct national drug-free policy in place.

Marijuana is a schedule I drug as classified by the Controlled Substances Act and is an addictive substance which poses great risks to public health and safety. It is the number one reason that children are admitted to substance abuse treatment facilities and the number two reason adults are admitted for treatment. Legalizing this substance is a threat to all states and citizens – not to the few states that have opted to violate federal law. We all will, and have, experienced the impact of marijuana legalization on our roads, workplace, classrooms, emergency rooms, and so many other areas of our lives. By not taking action against efforts to legalize marijuana we are creating one more costly social problem in America during a time when our nation cannot afford the consequences.

There are many tools the Federal government has in order to halt these activities such as making federal funding contingent on specific actions by the states. While this may be the best way to get the attention of these states, the Department of Justice is obligated to take action under federal law. Unfortunately inconsistent enforcement of laws has led us to a point of concern which needs to be addressed. Regardless of state actions, the possession, sale, and distribution of marijuana are against federal law. Further, it is also a violation of federal law for employees of a

state to be tasked with the establishment, administration, and regulation of marijuana businesses and enterprises.

We are requesting the federal government take appropriate action to ensure federal drug-free policy is upheld in all states. Having a responsible national drug-free policy in place will keep our communities safe; failure to have consistent enforcement in all states will have detrimental impact to us all.

Thank you for your administration's stance on opposing the legalization of marijuana. Please ensure that your administration's actions are consistent with your administration's statements. Only then can we have federal laws which are consistent, clear, and direct on this important issue.

Sincerely,

Tammy de Weerd  
Mayor, City of Meridian  
Chair, Association of Idaho Cities Drug Task Force

John Evans  
Mayor, City of Garden City  
President, Association of Idaho Cities

Jeff Lavey  
Chief of Police, City of Meridian  
President, Idaho Chiefs of Police Association

Steve England  
Mayor, City of Chubbuck

Brad Hoaglun  
Councilmember, City of Meridian

Jared D. Fuhrman  
Mayor, City of Idaho Falls

David Zarembo  
Councilmember, City of Meridian

Mac Pooler  
Mayor, City of Kellogg

Mitchell J. Hart  
Councilmember, City of Soda Springs

Clay Larkin  
Mayor, City of Post Falls

Garrett Nancolas  
Mayor, City of Caldwell

Kirk L. Hansen  
Mayor, City of Soda Springs

Michael B. Peterson  
Councilmember, City of Grangeville

Dennis W. Ohrtman  
Councilmember, City of Lewiston

Martin Thorne  
Councilmember, City of Nampa

John Bechtel  
Mayor, City of Wilder

Bob Dempsey  
Councilmember, City of Paul

Greg Lanting  
Mayor, City of Twin Falls

Randy Prescott  
Councilmember, City of Soda Springs

Bruce Sutherland  
Councilmember, City of Rexburg  
Robyn Herndon  
City Clerk/Treasurer, City of American Falls

Debbie Swensen  
City Clerk/Treasurer, City of Bancroft

Mike Virtue  
Mayor, City of Blackfoot

Suzanne McNeel  
City Clerk, City of Blackfoot

T.J. Thomson  
Councilmember, City of Boise

William Bones  
Deputy Chief of Police, City of Boise

Kris Larson  
City Clerk/Treasurer, City of Bonners Ferry

David Clark  
Councilmember, City of Caldwell

R. W. Carter  
Mayor, City of Cascade

LaLisa Thomason  
City Clerk/Treasurer, City of Craigmont

Clinton R. Dunn  
Councilmember, City of Dayton

Dennis J. Phillips  
Mayor, City of Downey

Gary Barnes  
Councilmember, City of Downey

Dana Evans  
Councilmember, City of Downey

Brian Blad  
Mayor, City of Pocatello

A. Morgan Anderson  
Mayor, City of Aberdeen  
Sally R. Hansen  
City Clerk, City of Athol

Amber Avila  
Alderman, City of Bellevue

Chief Moore  
Chief of Police, City of Blackfoot

Winston Hart  
City Clerk/Treasurer, City of Bloomington

Michael Masterson  
Chief of Police, City of Boise

Rick Alonzo  
Councilmember, City of Bonners Ferry

Terry Christie  
City Clerk/Treasurer, City of Bovill

Sandra McKee  
City Clerk/Treasurer, City of Cambridge

Tami Testa  
City Clerk/Treasurer, City of Council

Robert Sharp  
Mayor, City of Culdesac

Jay Darrington  
Mayor, City of Declo

Clarence D. Wilson  
Councilmember, City of Downey

Grant Johnson  
Councilmember, City of Downey

Brenda Kay  
City Clerk/Treasurer, City of Downey

Tony Hancock  
Maintenance Supervisor, City of Downey

Mary Dafayette  
Councilmember, City of Eagle  
Eltona Henderson  
Councilmember, City of Emmett

Chrystal Whiteley  
City Clerk/Treasurer, City of Emmett

Ken A. Bishop  
Mayor, City of Fruitland

Jim Bensley  
Chief of Police, City of Garden City

Loy Phillips  
Deputy City Clerk, City of Grace

Donna Ray  
City Clerk, City of Hauser

Tim Timmins  
Councilmember, City of Hayden

Thomas Hally  
Councilmember, City of Idaho Falls

Brad Anderson  
Mayor, City of Iona

Robert W. Culver  
Councilmember, City of Jerome

Cindy Fliger  
City Clerk, City of Juliaetta

James Eisenhower III  
Councilmember, City of Kimberley

Joe Stear  
Councilmember, City of Kuna

Lowell H. Frauenholz

Jim Reynolds  
Mayor, City of Eagle

William Butticci  
Mayor, City of Emmett  
Michael Stout  
Councilmember, City of Emmett

Richard A. Jurvelin  
Mayor, City of Fernan Lake Village

J.D. Huff  
Chief of Police, City of Fruitland

Charles Titcomb  
Mayor, City of Grace

Jeff Gunter  
Chief of Police, Cities of Hailey/Bellevue

Ronald B. McIntire  
Mayor, City of Hayden

Mary Hanson  
Mayor, Horseshoe Bend

Ida Hardcastle  
Councilmember, City of Idaho Falls

Bruce Case  
Councilmember, City of Iona

Dan Hall  
Chief of Police, City of Jerome

Terry Sharp  
City Clerk/Treasurer, City of Kellogg

Richard C. Cardoza  
Council President, City of Kuna

Solo L. Greene  
Mayor, City of Lapwai

Ken Bullock

Mayor, City of Mackay

Pam Bissegger  
City Clerk, City of McCammon

Keith Bird  
Councilmember, City of Meridian  
Reed Peterson  
Mayor, City of Montpelier

Walter Steed  
Councilmember, City of Moscow

Michael Dunnigan  
Mayor, City of Mullan

Chuck Reitz  
Councilmember, City of Mullan

Pam White  
Councilmember, City of Nampa

Jacob "Mac" Qualls  
City Clerk/Treasurer, City of New Meadows

Danielle Painter  
City Clerk/Treasurer, City of New Plymouth

Georgia K. Hanigan  
Councilmember, City of Payette

Lee Nelson,  
Councilmember, City of Payette

Ruth Whitworth  
City Clerk, City of Pocatello

David Brown  
Mayor, City of Potlatch

Kevin J. Fuhr  
Chief of Police, City of Rathdrum

Blair Kay  
City Clerk, City of Rexburg

Mayor, City of McCammon

Doug Sturges  
Mayor, City of Melba

Jaycee Holman  
City Clerk, City of Meridian  
Wayne Krauss  
Councilmember, City of Moscow

David Duke  
Chief of Police, City of Moscow

Sam Davis  
Councilmember, City of Mullan

Dan White  
Councilmember, City of Mullan

Craig Kingsbury  
Chief of Police, City of Nampa

Joe Cook  
Mayor, City of New Plymouth

Jeff Williams  
Mayor, City of Payette

Mark Heleker  
Councilmember, City of Payette

Scott L. Marchand  
Chief of Police, City of Pocatello

Ron Jacobson,  
Councilmember, City of Post Falls

Jerry C. Larsen  
City Clerk/Treasurer, City of Preston

Richard Woodland  
Mayor, City of Rexburg

Keith E. Hammon  
Chief of Police, City of Rigby

Eddy Hansen  
Mayor, City of Rockland

James R. Bowers  
Councilmember, City of Rupert

Eric R. Christensen  
Mayor, City of Shelley  
Jeff Kelley  
Councilmember, City of Shelley

Kurt Russell  
Councilmember, City of Shelley

Lynda Lee  
Councilmember, City of Soda Springs

James A. Smith  
Chief of Police, City of St. Anthony

Herb Mumford  
Mayor, City of Stanley

Glen Dalling  
Mayor, Sugar City

Janice Duncan  
Mayor, City of Swan Valley

Suzanne Hawkins  
Councilmember, City of Twin Falls

James Walker  
Chief of Police, City of Ucon

Craig Sherman  
City Clerk/Treasurer, City of Victor

Norman Steadman  
Mayor, City of Weippe

Brad Christopherson  
Mayor, City of Wendell

Dusty Tveidt  
Chief of Police, City of Wilder

Bayley Fuller  
City Clerk, City of Rupert

Leo Marshall  
Mayor, City of Salmon

Earl Beattie  
Councilmember, City of Shelley  
Stacy Pascoe  
Councilmember, City of Shelley

Larry Huber  
Mayor, City of Smelterville

Preston Phelps  
Councilmember, City of Soda Springs

Patty Parkinson  
City Clerk/Treasurer, City of St. Anthony

Gary Smith  
Councilmember, City of Star

Franz M. Suhadolnik  
Councilmember, City of Sun Valley

Don Hall  
Vice-Mayor, City of Twin Falls

Sharon Bryan  
Deputy City Clerk, City of Twin Falls

David Blain  
Mayor, City of Ucon

Jo Ann Groves  
Mayor, City of Wardner

Diana Thomas  
Mayor, City of Weiser

Deborah S. Gibbs  
City Clerk/Treasurer, City of Wendell

LeAnn J. Trautman  
City Clerk/Treasurer, City of Winchester

cc: Vice President Joe Biden  
Governor C.L. "Butch" Otter  
Senator Jim Risch  
Senator Mike Crapo  
Representative Mike Simpson  
Representative Raul Labrador  
U.S. Attorney General Eric Holder  
U.S. Deputy Attorney General James Cole  
U.S. Attorney Wendy J. Olson, District of Idaho  
Gil Kerikowske, Director of the White House Office of National Drug Control Policy  
Cecile Munoz, Director of Domestic Policy Council

# AIC Member Cities who Signed Letter:

1. Aberdeen
2. American Falls
3. Athol
4. Bancroft
5. Bellevue
6. Blackfoot
7. Bloomington
8. Boise
9. Bonners Ferry
10. Bovill
11. Caldwell
12. Cambridge
13. Cascade
14. Chubbuck
15. Council
16. Craigmont
17. Culdesac
18. Dayton
19. Declo
20. Downey
21. Eagle
22. Emmett
23. Fernan Lake Village
24. Fruitland
25. Garden City
26. Grace
27. Grangeville
28. Hailey
29. Hauser
30. Hayden
31. Horseshoe Bend
32. Idaho Falls
33. Iona
34. Jerome
35. Juliaetta
36. Kellogg
37. Kimberley
38. Kuna
39. Lapwai
40. Lewiston
41. Mackay
42. McCammon
43. Melba
44. Meridian
45. Montpelier
46. Moscow
47. Mullan
48. Nampa
49. New Meadows
50. New Plymouth
51. Paul
52. Payette
53. Pocatello
54. Post Falls
55. Potlatch
56. Preston
57. Rathdrum
58. Rexburg
59. Rigby
60. Rockland
61. Rupert
62. Salmon
63. Shelley
64. Smelterville
65. Soda Springs
66. St. Anthony
67. Stanley
68. Star
69. Sugar City
70. Sun Valley
71. Swan Valley
72. Twin Falls
73. Ucon
74. Victor
75. Wardner
76. Weippe
77. Weiser
78. Wendell
79. Wilder
80. Winchester

