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*The following statement by Kristi Kelly, Executive Director, Marijuana Industry Group, is being released in response to an April 3, 2017 memorandum from the Governors of Colorado, Washington, Oregon and Alaska to U.S. Attorney General Jeff Sessions and Secretary Steve Mnuchin requesting the Cole Memorandum and FinCEN guidelines be honored.*

“Marijuana Industry Group wholly supports the Governors of Colorado, Washington, Oregon and Alaska in their joint request to Attorney General Jeff Sessions to uphold the [former U.S Attorney General James] Cole Memorandum, and to Secretary Steve Mnuchin to uphold related FinCEN guidelines. The cannabis industry has been constructed with the strictest adherence to understanding and abiding by Federal priorities. A tightly constructed regulatory system has proven effective in identifying, controlling, and reducing the threats of criminal enterprises, gangs and cartels. Colorado’s cannabis program is heavily regulated, heavily taxed, and heavily enforced by state and local governments. Further, the existence of a legal market diminishes the impact of illegal cartels by allowing consumers to transition into taxed and regulated purchases.”

**About the [Cole Memorandum](#)**

*The Department of Justice is committed to the enforcement of the Controlled Substance Act and using its limited investigative and prosecutorial resources to address the most significant threats of the illegal distribution and sale of marijuana in the most effective, consistent, and rational way. Priorities include preventing distribution to minors; preventing revenue from the sale of marijuana from going to criminal enterprises, gangs and cartels; preventing the diversion of marijuana from states where it is legal under state law to other states; preventing state-authorized marijuana activity from being used as a cover or pretext for the trafficking of other illegal drugs or other illegal activity; preventing violence and the use of firearms in the cultivation and distribution of marijuana; preventing drugged driving and the exacerbation of other adverse public health consequences associated with marijuana use; preventing the growing of marijuana on public lands and the attendant public safety and environmental dangers posted by marijuana production on public lands; and preventing marijuana possession or use on federal property. Outside of these enforcement priorities, the federal government has traditionally relied on states and local law enforcement agencies to address marijuana activity through enforcement of their own narcotics laws. States are expected to have laws authorizing marijuana-related conduct and strong and effective regulatory and enforcement systems to address the stated threats.*

**About Marijuana Industry Group (MIG)**

*Marijuana Industry Group (MIG), the leading cannabis trade association for Colorado's licensed businesses, was founded in 2010 by cannabis business owners and supporters to help craft Colorado's earliest medical marijuana regulatory framework – which was the world's first licensed, taxed and regulated model. MIG has cultivated strong relationships at the highest levels of state and local government, allowing for real-time education, access, and advancement of practical policy. As the oldest and largest trade association in the state, MIG represents the interests of, and advocates on behalf of, the rapidly evolving needs of the leaders of regulated marijuana industry in Colorado.*

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