

Oklahoma House of Representatives  
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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

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***Rep. Ritze Expresses Concern to Attorney General Over Marijuana  
Lawsuit***

OKLAHOMA CITY – State Rep. Mike Ritze and other lawmakers sent a letter to Attorney General Scott Pruitt earlier this week expressing an array of concerns over a lawsuit filed by Oklahoma and Nebraska this month in the U.S. Supreme Court urging the Court to invalidate Colorado voters' 2012 decision to end the prohibition of marijuana in the state.

The lawsuit argues [that Colorado's decision to end marijuana prohibition under state law, despite federal statutes and United Nations treaties criminalizing the substance, harms neighboring states and violates the supremacy clause of the U.S. Constitution.

Ritze argues that the lawsuit could have serious implications to our own state if successful.

"This is not about marijuana at its core -- it is about the U.S. Constitution, the Tenth Amendment, and the right of states to govern themselves as they see fit," said Ritze, R-Broken Arrow. "If the Supreme Court can force Colorado to criminalize a substance or activity and commandeer state resources to enforce extra-constitutional federal statutes and UN agreements, then it can essentially do anything, and states become mere administrative units for Washington, D.C.

"That is not what our Founding Fathers had in mind and that is not what the people of Oklahoma stand for. The Constitution reserved the police power to the states, therefore states are the proper venue for determining what their own civil and criminal codes should be, not the federal government or the UN. Our Founding Fathers intended the states to be laboratories of self-government, free to tinker and experiment with different ideas. The founders, from Jefferson to Madison, were also strong proponents of states nullifying unconstitutional federal actions. If the people of Colorado want to end prohibition of marijuana, while I may personally disagree with the decision, constitutionally speaking, they are entitled to do so. Neither the

commerce clause nor the supremacy clause grants the federal government the power to regulate intrastate trade or commandeer state and local resources in pursuit of a policy. If citizens of that state don't like it, they are free to use the process to change the laws or move to another state. The last thing we need is the federal government and the UN trying to dictate our criminal codes and control our commercial activities."