

I wanted to share some positive news in our effort to protect our federal lands from marijuana cultivation. As you may know, Mexican cartels have set up shop on public lands in the North State and are threatening public safety and the usage of our own lands. Today the House of Representatives passed [H. Res. 1540](#) , a resolution I sponsored to affirm the sense of Congress that marijuana cultivation on federal lands is an unacceptable threat to the safety of law enforcement and the public and that the federal government must take an increased role in putting an end to this growing problem. Previously, I have arranged meetings between the Department of Homeland Security, the Office of National Drug Control Policy, the Drug Enforcement Administration, the Forest Service, and the Bureau of Land Management to aid in developing a comprehensive federal solution to Mexican drug cartels operating on North State public lands. In a floor speech, I urged Congress to adopt the resolution and called on federal agencies to make marijuana eradication on federal lands a priority. You can view video of my speech [here](#) . The full text of the remarks follow below:

“Madam Speaker, I rise to urge my colleagues to support House Resolution 1540, which I introduced to expose a growing crisis on public lands in my Northern California congressional district and across our nation. Mexican drug cartels are operating large-scale marijuana plantations on these lands and the problem is getting worse by the day. I recently joined law enforcement in a marijuana eradication raid in the forests of Shasta County California and saw firsthand the flourishing productivity of these foreign drug traffickers. Unfortunately, the federal government has not taken sufficient action to dismantle them and a comprehensive strategy is long overdue.

“These foreign drug cartels pose a severe threat to public safety. They are heavily armed and have repeatedly fired at law enforcement officers to protect their illegal crops. They endanger the lives of outdoorsmen who too frequently have been confronted by violent criminals while simply trying to enjoy their public lands. They use the drug profits to fund a multitude of violent crimes and provoke the political unrest in Mexico that could threaten our national security. They cause grave and costly damage to our environment, leaving behind tons of trash and dangerous chemicals and costing taxpayers an estimated \$11,000 to restore each acre of forest damaged by marijuana cultivation.

“Madam Speaker, our national forests should be a safe haven for families and recreation enthusiasts, not Mexican drug cartels. The American people should not have to fear for their safety while on a family camping trip. Taxpayers in our nation should not have to bear the financial burden of the damage caused by drug traffickers. And the United States should never allow foreign cartels to reign free on the sovereign territory of our nation. Let me say emphatically that these drug trafficking organizations must be pursued relentlessly, shut down permanently, and brought to justice unconditionally.

“House Resolution 1540 spells out the crisis occurring on our public lands and affirms that the federal government must do more to confront this threat. It calls upon the Director of the Office of National Drug Control Policy to work in conjunction with Federal and State agencies to develop a comprehensive and coordinated strategy to permanently dismantle the foreign drug trafficking organizations that have found a sanctuary on these lands. It is an important first step designed to both shine the light on this unacceptable menace and to demand that federal law enforcement agencies take more aggressive, more persistent, and more effective actions to shut them down for good.

“I want to thank Chairman Conyers and Ranking Member Smith for their commitment to addressing this serious threat to public safety and to our national sovereignty, and I urge my colleagues to vote for this resolution.”