

WALL STREET JOURNAL

The Beltway Choom Gang

Tim Lynch

September 12, 2013

Dear Editor:

Your editorial about the Obama administration's policy shift on marijuana was badly flawed. Last November, voters in Colorado and Washington approved referenda that essentially repealed their state criminal statutes pertaining to marijuana possession. Since federal law is unaffected by that, the doctrine of federal supremacy is not in play.

There is a historical precedent for all this. The misguided policy of alcohol prohibition did not unravel all at once. It began when states like New York repealed their criminal bans. In a few more years, most states will regulate marijuana like liquor and the federal law will eventually follow.

Cordially,

Tim Lynch