



MIKE HUNTER  
ATTORNEY GENERAL

October 20, 2017

The Honorable Jeff Sessions  
U.S. Department of Justice  
950 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW  
Washington, DC 20530-0001

Dear Mr. Attorney General,

Thank you for coming to Rose State College to address the Oklahoma Sheriff's Association yesterday. Your public support of state and local law enforcement is both appreciated and essential for officers to carry out their mission of keeping the public safe.

As you mentioned in your remarks, the opioid epidemic has become a national, public health crisis. More Americans died from drug overdoses in 2016 than in the Vietnam War. Oklahoma has seen and felt the effects of the crisis as thousands of our citizens have died and many more are suffering the long-lasting effects of addiction. As part of my effort to address the problem, I am chairing the Oklahoma Commission on Opioid Abuse, created by the Oklahoma Legislature in April of this year. We are currently studying the problem in Oklahoma so as to make good policy and legislative recommendations by the end of the year.

From a law enforcement standpoint, I believe the most powerful tool we have to fight the opioid epidemic is the Racketeer Influenced and Corrupt Organizations Act ("RICO"). On both the state and federal level, RICO should be utilized to pursue the continuing criminal enterprise perpetuated by the opioid manufacturers, wholesalers, and distributors. For too long, the industry has been allowed to deceive medical providers and the public as to the efficacy and the addictive quality of opioids and has avoided meaningful regulatory enforcement in recent years. They need to be held accountable.

As you said, better cooperation and collaboration among federal, state, and local law enforcement is necessary to prevent crime. I believe we must also be united in our fight against illicit opioids. I would like to meet with you personally in Washington to discuss a joint effort between the Department of Justice and Oklahoma law enforcement to address the opioid epidemic in Oklahoma. Our partnership would send a strong and swift message that federal and state law enforcement are not willing to allow this scourge to continue.

Page 2

Letter to Attorney General Sessions

I look forward to discussing this timely and pressing issue and working together to hold the bad actors accountable. It is our duty and obligation to do so.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Mike Hunter". The signature is written in a cursive, slightly stylized font.

Mike Hunter  
Attorney General