



Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

April 24, 2015

The Honorable Michael Botticelli
White House Office of National Drug Control Policy
750 Seventeenth St. NW
Washington DC 20503

Dear Mr. Botticelli:

I am writing in support of the Northwest Regional Drug and Gang Task Force's (NRDGTF) request for a HIDTA designation for Frederick and Warren Counties in Virginia, which is being devastated by heroin. In the 2012, 1 person died of a heroin overdose but that number jumped to 33 in 2014. The trend continues to grow this year resulting in 8 deaths in the region.

Through the NRDGTF, local law enforcement joined medical professionals, addiction treatment specialists, and educators to develop solutions in the region. Progress is being made but further assistance is needed to help our local groups cut across geographic boundaries. Being recognized by HIDTA will improve interagency collaboration; promote the sharing of accurate and timely information. As well as, provide specialized training and other resources to our participating law enforcement and treatment agencies.

A HIDTA designation would help the task force combat what has proven to be an epidemic in the Shenandoah Valley. The efforts of all the local agencies and organizations have proven to be successful in working across multiple jurisdictions to fight crime, drugs and gangs but need more help to deal with the growing heroin problem. I hope you will give their application every consideration.

Please feel free to contact me if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Barbara Comstock".

Barbara Comstock