

State Attorneys General

A Communication from the Chief Legal Officers of the Following States and Territories:

**Alaska * Arizona * Arkansas * Connecticut * Delaware
Florida * Georgia * Guam * Hawaii * Illinois * Indiana * Iowa * Kentucky
Maine * Maryland * Massachusetts * Michigan * Mississippi * Nevada
New Hampshire * North Carolina * Oregon * Pennsylvania * Rhode Island
South Dakota * Tennessee * Utah * Vermont * Washington**

December 10, 2013

Margaret Hamburg, M.D.
Commissioner of Food and Drugs
U.S. Food and Drug Administration
10903 New Hampshire Avenue
Silver Spring, MD 20993

Dear Dr. Hamburg:

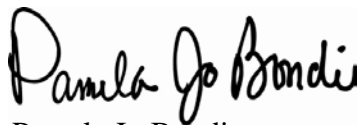
We write to you out of concern regarding your agency's recent approval of a new high-dose narcotic painkiller. We believe your approval of Zohydro ER has the potential to exacerbate our nation's prescription drug abuse epidemic because this drug will be the first hydrocodone-only opioid narcotic that is reportedly five to ten times more potent than traditional hydrocodone products, and it has no abuse-deterrent properties.

State Attorneys General do not want a repeat of the recent past when potent prescription painkilling drugs entered the market without abuse-deterrent qualities and without clear guidance on how they were to be prescribed. This created an environment whereby our nation witnessed a vicious cycle of overzealous pharmaceutical sales, doctors over-prescribing the narcotics, and patients tampering with these drugs, ultimately resulting in a nationwide prescription drug epidemic claiming thousands of lives.

We hope that the FDA either reconsiders its approval of Zohydro ER, or sets a rigorous timeline for Zohydro ER to be reformulated to be abuse-deterrent while working with other federal agencies to impose restrictions on how Zohydro ER can be marketed and prescribed.

Law enforcement officers, public health workers, and substance abuse treatment providers are just now beginning to stem the tide of prescription drug addiction. We do not want to see their dedicated work undone. Thank you for your consideration and we look forward to your response.

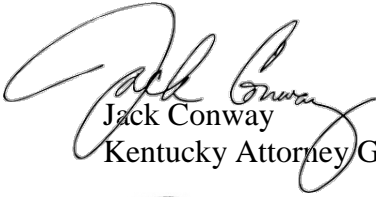
Sincerely,



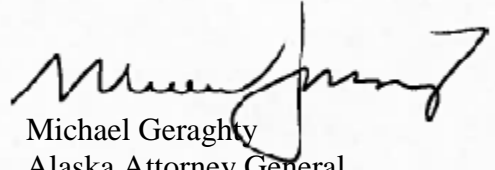
Pamela Jo Bondi
Florida Attorney General




Samuel S. Olens
Georgia Attorney General




Jack Conway
Kentucky Attorney General



Michael Geraghty
Alaska Attorney General



Tom Horne
Arizona Attorney General



Dustin McDaniel
Arkansas Attorney General



George Jepsen
Connecticut Attorney General



Joseph R. "Beau" Biden III
Delaware Attorney General



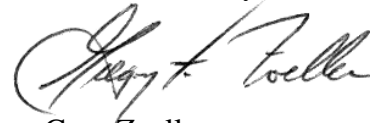
Lenny Rapadas
Guam Attorney General



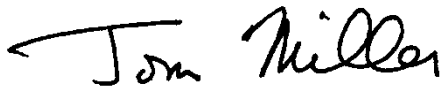
David Louie
Hawaii Attorney General



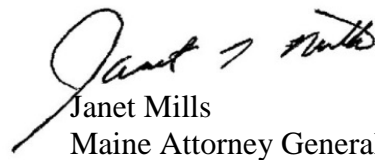
Lisa Madigan
Illinois Attorney General



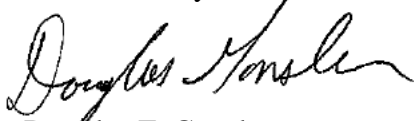
Greg Zoeller
Indiana Attorney General



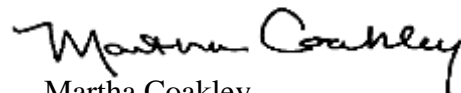
Tom Miller
Iowa Attorney General



Janet Mills
Maine Attorney General



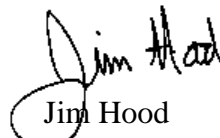
Douglas F. Gansler
Maryland Attorney General



Martha Coakley
Massachusetts Attorney General



Bill Schuette
Michigan Attorney General



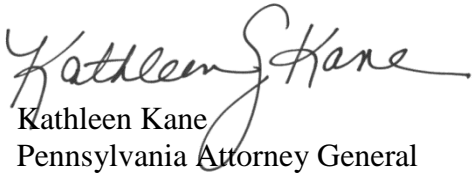
Jim Hood
Mississippi Attorney General



Catherine Cortez Masto
Nevada Attorney General



Roy Cooper
North Carolina Attorney General



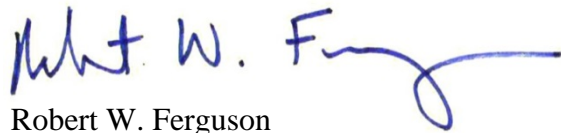
Kathleen Kane
Pennsylvania Attorney General



Marty Jackley
South Dakota Attorney General



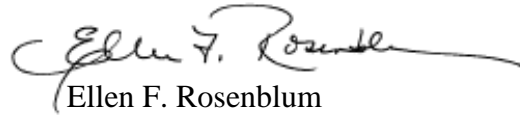
Brian Tarbet
Acting Utah Attorney General



Robert W. Ferguson
Washington Attorney General



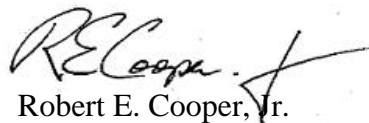
Joseph Foster
New Hampshire Attorney General



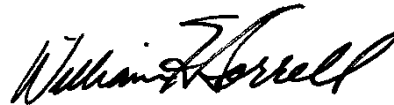
Ellen F. Rosenblum
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Peter Kilmartin
Rhode Island Attorney General



Robert E. Cooper, Jr.
Tennessee Attorney General



William H. Sorrell
Vermont Attorney General