



JACKSON COUNTY

Oregon

Administrator's Office

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February 2, 2023

Representative Nancy Nathanson, Chair
Oregon House Committee on Revenue
900 Court Street NE
Salem OR 97301

Representative Pam Marsh, Member
Oregon House Committee on Revenue
900 Court Street NE
Salem OR 97301

Representative E. Werner Reschke, Vice-Chair
Oregon House Committee on Revenue
900 Court Street NE
Salem OR 97301

Representative Daniel Nguyen, Member
Oregon House Committee on Revenue
900 Court Street NE
Salem OR 97301

Representative Jules Walters, Vice-Chair
Oregon House Committee on Revenue
900 Court Street NE
Salem OR 97301

Representative Greg Smith, Member
Oregon House Committee on Revenue
900 Court Street NE
Salem OR 97301

Representative Bobby Levy, Member
Oregon House Committee on Revenue
900 Court Street NE
Salem OR 97301

RE: Jackson County's Support for Oregon House Bill 2089 (2023)

Dear Chair Nathanson, Vice-Chair Reschke, Vice-Chair Walters, and the House Committee on Revenue:

Jackson County strongly supports Oregon House Bill (HB) 2089 (2023), which amends the provisions of Oregon Revised Statute 475C.726 to provide additional funding to counties and cities from funds available in the Oregon Marijuana Account (OMA). As has been thoroughly documented, and which I will not take the time to reiterate, Jackson County has suffered, and continues to suffer, significant negative impacts from the legalization of marijuana.

Following the adoption of Oregon Ballot Measure 110 (2020), the amount of funds that Jackson County, and other local governments, received from the OMA was dramatically reduced. In fiscal year 2019-2020, Jackson County received \$2,194,352 from the OMA. In fiscal year 2021-2022, Jackson County received only \$672,960 from the OMA, a reduction of \$1,521,392, or 69.33 percent, in annually distributed funds that are desperately needed to address the impacts of the production of marijuana on our community. To give context, the cost of a Sheriff's Deputy, on average, is approximately \$150,000 per year and the cost of a Code Enforcement Officer is approximately \$100,000 per year. The loss of \$1,521,392 eliminates the ability of the County to fund an additional 10 Sheriff's Deputies or 15 Code Enforcement Officers, or some combination thereof, to enforce local and State laws and reduce the negative impacts of the production of marijuana in our County.

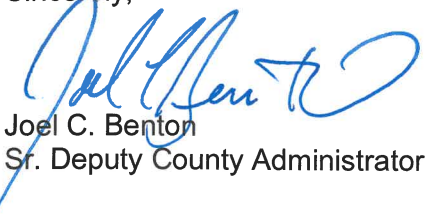
The inability of the County to fund these positions also has broader impacts on our community than just on the ground law enforcement. The following are just a few examples:

- Less staff means less eradication of illegally grown marijuana, which impacts the revenue that the State receives from legal marijuana production and sales.
- Less staff means less enforcement of laws related to the humane treatment of workers in the marijuana industry; a known and significant issue in our County.
- Less staff means less enforcement, and potential participation of, individuals in rehabilitative opportunities such as Drug Court.

As you can see, the reduction in revenue received by Jackson County from the OMA after the passage of Ballot Measure 110 (2020) has caused significant and enduring harms. As such, Jackson County strongly supports the provisions of Oregon HB 2089 (2023). While we cannot determine, at this time, how much additional funding would be provided to the County from the OMA, any additional ongoing funding is desperately need by our County and other local communities.

Thank you for your time considering this matter.

Sincerely,



Joel C. Benton
Sr. Deputy County Administrator

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By: Submitted electronically via olis.oregonlegislature.gov

cc: By Email to Representative Kim Wallan, Representative Christine Goodwin, Representative Emily McIntire, Representative Lily Morgan, Senator Jeff Golden, Senator Art Robinson, Senator Dennis Linthicum, Commissioner Rick Dyer, Commissioner Dave Dotterer, and Commissioner Colleen Roberts