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On Behalf Of:
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Measure, Appointment or Topic: SB347

Senate Bill 347 can indirectly address the issue of human trafficking in Oregon by targeting illegal marijuana operations, which are often associated with organized crime and human exploitation.

Human trafficking is a severe issue in Oregon, with criminal networks exploiting vulnerable individuals in forced labor and sexual exploitation. Illicit drug-growing operations, particularly those related to marijuana, are frequently linked to these criminal activities. By reducing the profitability and operability of illegal marijuana grows, Senate Bill 347 can play a pivotal role in dismantling these networks.

Connection Between Drug Cartels and Human Trafficking

Criminal organizations involved in illegal marijuana cultivation often exploit trafficked laborers to manage large-scale operations. These individuals, often undocumented or marginalized, are coerced through threats, violence, or debt bondage. Disqualifying farm-use tax benefits for lands used for illegal marijuana growing under SB 347 reduces the economic incentive and operational feasibility of these criminal enterprises.

Enhanced Accountability for Landowners

By holding landowners accountable for illegal activities on their property unless they promptly report them, SB 347 ensures greater vigilance and cooperation with law enforcement. This policy discourages landlords from turning a blind eye to criminal operations, further isolating cartels that rely on complicit or negligent property owners.

Impact on Organized Crime Operations

Cutting off financial and logistical support for illegal grows weakens the infrastructure of criminal organizations. A reduction in these operations can lead to decreased demand for trafficked laborers, thereby mitigating one avenue of human exploitation.

Support for Victims of Trafficking

The funds and resources saved from combating illegal grows can be redirected toward victim support services. Oregon can use these resources to enhance law enforcement training, establish safe houses, and support recovery programs for trafficking survivors.

Conclusion:

Senate Bill 347 is not only a measure to ensure proper land use and fair taxation but

also a critical step toward reducing human trafficking linked to illegal marijuana cultivation. By disincentivizing criminal enterprises and promoting landowner accountability, this legislation supports Oregon's broader efforts to combat human exploitation and protect vulnerable communities.