



**OREGON STATE SHERIFFS' ASSOCIATION**  
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PO Box 7468 Salem OR 97303

**To: Members of the Joint Ways and Means Subcommittee on Public Safety**

**From:** Sheriff Sam Elliott, Yamhill County Sheriff's Office  
Oregon State Sheriffs' Association

**Date:** February 13<sup>th</sup>, 2025

**Re: HB 5005 – Testimony in Support  
Oregon Criminal Justice Commission Budget (CJC)**

**Chair Evans, Chair Broadman and members of the committee,**

Thank you for the opportunity to testify today. I am Sheriff Sam Elliott from Yamhill County and I am here today on behalf of the Oregon State Sheriffs Association to express strong support for **HB 4005** and for sustained funding for specialized enforcement teams combating black market marijuana operations. These efforts have **reduced environmental damage, curbed labor trafficking, and improved community safety.**

In Yamhill County this funding has allowed us to interrupt and dismantle multiple large illegal grow sites, including one grow that had just over 100 greenhouses, over 22,000 marijuana plants, and over 10,000 pounds of marijuana. Another search warrant served in the county yielded the largest marijuana seizure in the history of the office, with over 76,000 pounds of marijuana located. All of the enforcement operations have presented hazardous environmental conditions, substandard living conditions for laborers, and connections to other cannabis operations in neighboring counties, and out of state. Illegal grows **harm our environment** by depleting water resources and using toxic pesticides, while also **exploiting vulnerable individuals** through labor trafficking. Targeted enforcement has **shut down numerous illicit operations**, but the work is far from over. Without continued funding, we risk a **resurgence of illegal grows, environmental harm, and public safety concerns.**

I urge your continued support to **protect our communities, safeguard our natural resources, and uphold the progress we have made.** Thank you.

Thank you for your consideration.