



DESCHUTES COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE

Kent van der Kamp, Sheriff

Proudly Serving Our Community

April 1, 2025

Re: Funding for IMMEGP

To Whom It May Concern:

This letter is being submitted by the Deschutes County Illegal Marijuana Market Enforcement (DCIMME) Team to offer our support for the prior and present funding we have received from the Criminal Justice Commission. We have been a recipient of the funds from the inception of this program in 2018. Without the grant, our area most likely would not have started a team for the sole purpose of combatting illegal marijuana.

We were able to fund an intelligence analyst, detectives, supplies, equipment, training and public outreach with our award. When we first started this program, it was quite the learning curve, and our team did not know how much the illegal market had moved into Deschutes County. The scale of illegal grows and BHO labs was quite pervasive in the beginning. When hemp became the cover crop for illegal marijuana, the problem grew even bigger. The funding helped us purchase equipment, fund overtime and partner with other agencies. We have worked with our DA's office to do public outreach as well as work with us on making sure we are prosecuting as many cases as we can. We formed a relationship with a non-profit organization to assist us if we suspected human trafficking and they have grown in their mission.

Our goal is to increase the quality of living for our residents. We have received positive feedback from residents expressing gratitude that they no longer have to deal with strong odors and vehicles coming and going from a location. We are removing the illegal grows but we are also addressing environmental issues, dangerous code violations and water theft. Water resources in our area are a big issue and having our water resource office partner with us has been extremely helpful.

Although the illegal marijuana market has slowed down from the peak time in our area, it is not gone. We believe it will continue to be a problem, and it would get worse if we no longer had a team dedicated to this. Our legal marijuana businesses feel the same. The black



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market has hurt them and will continue to do so if we don't address it. We have actually been told by arrestees that our media outreach and publicizing our arrests have let all illegal growers know we are in the area and looking for them.

From the beginning, the staff who have been assigned to the IMMEGP project have been invaluable. They have supported us, helped us navigate what we can do and offered insights into what other teams around the state have been doing to combat the problem. We can't say enough about how much we have appreciated this partnership.

We respectfully request that you support additional funding to keep the IMMEGP programs active and financed.

Deschutes County Illegal Marijuana Market Enforcement Team

Captain Ty Rupert, Detective Anthony Ramos, Detective Kevin Riding and Analyst Danielle Martell