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To: **Members of the Senate Judiciary Committee**

From: **Sheriff Lane Magill, President**
Oregon State Sheriffs' Association

          Chief Marcia Harnden, President
Oregon Association Chiefs of Police

Date: February 11, 2026

Re: **SB 1516 – Use Case/Success Stories: Responsible Use of License Plate Reader Technology: Privacy, Security, and Public Safety**

AUTOMATIC LICENSE PLATE READER (ALPR) – USE CASE EXAMPLES

The categories below outline common ALPR use cases along with selected examples from Oregon law enforcement agencies. Numerous examples were submitted, so the items listed below represent only a small snapshot of them.

Hotlist Hits / Alerts (Real-Time ALPR Alerts):

Summary: An ALPR hotlist hit/alert occurs when a scanned license plate matches a plate on a designated "hotlist," such as one associated with a stolen vehicle, an AMBER or Silver Alert, or a wanted person. The ALPR system compares the scanned plate against entries in the National Crime Information Center (NCIC) and the Oregon Law Enforcement Data System (LEDS). When a match is found, the system automatically generates an alert showing the plate, location, and time of the scan so officers can verify the information and take appropriate action. Here are a few use case examples from Oregon law enforcement agencies:

- Stolen Vehicle Recovery: Bend, Oregon, in September of 2025, a sophisticated auto vehicle theft ring targeting elderly victims was discovered and dismantled because of the use of an ALPR reader. After an 80-year-old victim was tricked into selling his truck for thousands less than it was worth, the investigating officer utilized ALPR data to not only locate the stolen truck but also to identify and an associated Washington plated

van, which was then linked to similar type reported vehicle thefts the day prior. The investigator used the hot-list function for the license plates of the stolen vehicles and the suspect van. The investigator quickly received an alert the following day, showing that the stolen truck was being transported on a semi-trailer just north of Bend. Officers were able to conduct a stop on the vehicle and recover the stolen truck and four other stolen vehicles being transported to a dismantling operation in California.

- Property Crimes - Burglary: Medford, Oregon, in January 2024, a subject entered a residence while the occupants were sleeping. The suspect stole multiple property items and left in the victim's vehicle. The stolen vehicle was captured on the ALPR in town and that generated a hotlist hit to the officers. The officers responded and located the vehicle, arresting the suspect on scene.

- Silver Alert – Missing Elderly Adult: Silver alert out of Goldendale, WA, in August of 2025, the ALPR system identified the license plate of an 84-year-old missing and endangered male, reported missing out of Goldendale, Washington. Within minutes of the vehicle being reported, it was read by ALPR on Hwy 97 near Bend, OR, a hot list alert was made, and officers were able to locate his van and contact the man. He was confused, unaware of where he was at and could not recall when he last ate. This ensured the safe return of this man and a swift reunification to his family, most likely bringing a safe end to what is most often a tragedy for these types of cases. Additionally, saving significant resources and time, as missing person cases oftentimes are very resource intensive.

- Warrant-Associated Vehicle: Woodburn, Oregon, in 2025, a suspect who had arrest warrants for parole violation, robbery, and other serious crimes, for using a vehicle to run over his ex-girlfriend had evaded arrest for over six months. Additionally, the suspect had eluded officers multiple times when attempting to arrest him. The suspect's vehicle was entered into the hotlist for the ALPR system. The officers received a hotlist alert and were able to locate and arrest the suspect, keeping the community safe.

- Stolen Vehicle with Other Crimes: Oregon State Police in 2025, received a hotlist alert on a stolen vehicle from their ALPR system. Troopers responded and conducted a traffic stop on the stolen vehicle. The stop also yielded a concealed handgun and commercial quantities of narcotics. Both occupants were people restricted from having weapons.

Oregon Criminal Investigations Using Historical ALPR Data:

Summary: For Oregon criminal investigations, officers can query historical ALPR data during the period it is legally retained to help identify vehicle movements relevant to a case. Investigators submit a specific plate number or a narrowly tailored search request, and the system returns past scans showing dates, times, and locations where that plate was detected. This allows investigators to confirm leads, place a suspect vehicle at or near a crime scene, identify patterns

or rule out presence of a vehicle, all based solely on data collected and retained within the authorized retention window and accessed for an identified law enforcement purpose. Most use cases for ALPR identified by law enforcement agencies involved the use of stored data for critical investigatory purposes.

- <u>Property Crime / Burglary ring:</u> Gresham, Oregon, in 2025, a trans-national burglary group was targeting the homes of Asian business owners in Gresham and other areas of the State of Oregon. The suspect group used high-tech surveillance equipment, cameras, radios and multiple vehicles to prevent detection and apprehension by law enforcement. Investigators were able to use multiple historical ALPR scans and footage from the City of Gresham's public safety cameras to identify the vehicles used by this group and reconstruct their movements. This information was critical to develop this investigation and eventually led to the dismantling of this group and arrest of multiple suspects, leading to the recovery of substantial stolen property and bringing a sense of safety back to the community.

- <u>Hit-and-Run Investigation</u>: Keizer, Oregon, in 2025, a suspect struck and killed a person on the roadway north of Keizer Station. Investigators had determined the suspect vehicle originated from the Keizer Station, which has multiple ALPR cameras. After extensive review of the data captured on the ALPR system and utilizing evidence from the scene, the suspect vehicle was identified. Investigators located the vehicle and arrested the suspect in this case.

- <u>Serious Assault:</u> Marion County, Oregon, in 2025, a suspect had solicited sex from a female in Portland. The suspect drove the victim to a vacant home in rural Marion County that the suspect had previously identified to use. When the suspect could not get into the home and the victim refused to engage in sex with the suspect, he attempted to sexually assault the victim on the back porch of the location. The suspect then stabbed the victim and left her for dead. The victim was able to call 911 and get emergency services. The investigative canvas was able to locate surveillance video and a license plate of a vehicle for the suspect. Investigators used historical ALPR data to identify the suspect vehicle, the suspect's activity patterns and eventually his home address. The vehicle was stolen from a rental company in Colorado. The case was brought to resolution because of the use of the ALPR historical data.

- <u>Sexual Assault of minors:</u> Marion County, Oregon, in 2025, a minor reported a sexual assault. Two additional underage victims of the same suspect were later identified as well. Investigators used ALPR historical data to track the suspect's routine and coordinate an early-morning arrest before the suspect left for work. This suspect failed to appear for his court appearance and again ALPR was used by patrol deputies to locate the vehicle and arrest the suspect and the suspect's brother who also had an arrest warrant.

- Targeted Shooting case: Gresham, Oregon, in November of 2020, a victim was targeted for murder. The victim fought off the suspects and was able to avoid being struck by gunfire. The victim was then dragged and ran over by the suspects during the event. A historical ALPR search was conducted, and the vehicle was identified in the City of Portland multiple times, ultimately leading to the location and arrest of the suspects. The data used for the investigation was from August of 2020, over 90 days prior to the criminal event.

Criminal Investigation from another State:

Summary: Crime does not respect state boundaries, and investigators frequently confront serious cases in which a suspect vehicle associated with an out-of-state offense has traveled through Oregon. These cases may involve a fleeing suspect, an abducted child, a multi-state crime spree, or other serious criminal offenses. In such circumstances, historical ALPR data held by Oregon law enforcement agencies can be critical to an investigation by confirming whether and when a vehicle passed through the state, helping establish timelines, identify travel patterns, and support the timely resolution of complex, multi-jurisdictional cases.

- Felony Fatal Hit and Run: Woodburn, Oregon, in 2024, a suspect struck and killed a pedestrian and fled the scene. Woodburn Police contacted external agencies to request assistance locating the suspect vehicle. Hillsboro Police Department utilized a shared ALPR network and located the suspect vehicle in their historical database. The vehicle was identified in Idaho and showed the suspects direction of travel. This ultimately led investigators to a property owned by the suspect in Minnesota. A search warrant was conducted on the suspect vehicle, and this case is actively being prosecuted.

- Homicide Case: Gresham, Oregon, in 2021, a suspect stalked a victim in Gresham prior to shooting and killing the victim near a MAX platform. Investigators identified the suspect vehicle. Shared license plate reads from other law enforcement agencies showed the suspect had immediately fled Oregon to Florida. Investigators were able to coordinate with Florida law enforcement to take the suspect into custody for the murder.

- Out of State Child Sex Trafficking: Investigators from Montana had determined a suspect from Oregon had travelled into Montana to specifically have sex with a 14-year-old child. Gresham Investigators were able to successfully use historical ALPR scans to corroborate the travel of the suspect vehicle from Oregon to Montana to further strengthen this criminal case.

Criminal Investigation from a Federal Agency:

Summary: Automatic License Plate Reader (ALPR) data plays a critical role in solving serious criminal cases where federal law enforcement agencies are engaged, provided those cases fall

fully within Oregon law and do not implicate immigration enforcement activities restricted under Oregon's Sanctuary statutes or involve conduct that is lawful in Oregon, such as abortion or transgender-related care. In these appropriate investigations, such as violent felonies, child abductions, missing persons, organized crime, or multi-state threats to public safety, ALPR data helps law enforcement identify vehicle movements, verify timelines, and locate suspects or victims more quickly. The ability to share and query ALPR information in these clearly permissible scenarios strengthens interagency coordination, improves case outcomes, and enhances community safety while fully respecting Oregon's legal boundaries and protected activities.

- Burglary case: Medford, Oregon, in January of 2025, a local pharmacy was burglarized after the suspects gained entry by shattering a window. Investigators were able to leverage a combination of video footage and ALPR historical data in the area. Investigators identified a suspect by using the ALPR data. This same suspect vehicle was then captured traveling southbound toward Phoenix, Oregon. Investigators were then able to once again pick up the vehicle on ALPR data entering the Walmart parking lot. They were then able to use video footage from Walmart to identify two suspects getting out of the vehicle and entering the store where they purchased items that were found as evidence in the burglary they had committed. The suspects were identified in the case using technology. The FBI has picked up this case because of the federal nexus, and the suspects are facing federal charges.

Exoneration & Rule-Out Use Cases:

Summary: ALPR data can be instrumental in ruling out potential suspects or exonerating individuals by confirming that a subject vehicle was nowhere near the scene of a crime when it occurred. Because ALPR systems provide objective, time-stamped location information, investigators can quickly determine whether a vehicle's documented movements conflict with the timeline or location of the offense. This ability to verify that a vehicle could not have been involved protects individuals from unwarranted suspicion and allows law enforcement to redirect investigative resources toward more viable leads, ultimately strengthening both accuracy and fairness in the investigative process.

- Shooting Case: Medford, Oregon, in June 2025, a fatal shooting occurred at Wilson Elementary school. Investigators utilized video data from the scene to narrow down vehicle visual features, then using ALPR data to narrow down the pool of potential suspect vehicles through these visual details. Investigators were able to cross reference vehicles identified through historical ALPR with the details discovered during the investigation, narrowing down potential suspect vehicles in the case. Ultimately one vehicle was identified using historical ALPR data that was registered to a family member of a person connected to the case, as the most likely suspect vehicle. The unique characteristics from the video footage at the initial scene matched the characteristics on the ALPR historical data and enabled detectives to focus their efforts and culminating in

the arrest in the suspect for this case. Savings many resources, and valuable time allowing more focus on the investigation.

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