

COLUMBIA COUNTY



Board of Commissioners Office

ST. HELENS, OR 97051

Commissioners

Margaret Magruder
Kellie Jo Smith
Casey Garrett

Administration

Jacyn Normine
Kathy Coddington

Communications

Mark Pacheco

230 Strand St., Room 338
Direct (503) 397-4322
Fax (503) 366-7243
columbiacountyor.gov

May 5, 2025

Oregon Criminal Justice Commission
Attn: Illegal Marijuana Market Enforcement Grant Program
885 Summer Street NE
Salem, OR 97301

Dear Members of the Commission,

The Columbia County Board of Commissioners fully supports the Sheriff's Office in its request for continued funding through the Illegal Marijuana Market Enforcement Grant (IMMEG) program.

Illegal marijuana operations remain a serious concern in rural counties like Columbia. These unlicensed grows often operate in remote areas, strain enforcement capacity, and pose significant risks—including water theft, hazardous chemicals, human trafficking, and violent crime.

The Sheriff's Marijuana Enforcement Team (MET) has made measurable progress in shutting down these operations. Their work has protected property, preserved resources, and supported the integrity of Oregon's legal cannabis system.

Continued IMMEG funding will allow the MET to maintain staffing, strengthen coordination, and respond effectively to the evolving tactics of illegal growers.

We urge your full consideration of this request. Ongoing support will help keep Columbia County safe and sustain enforcement efforts statewide.

Respectfully,
BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
FOR COLUMBIA COUNTY, OREGON

Kellie Jo Smith, Chair

Casey Garrett, Commissioner

Margaret Magruder, Commissioner