



Multnomah County Sheriff's Office
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MICHAEL REESE
SHERIFF

Exemplary service for a safe, livable community

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March 22, 2017

Oregon State Legislature
Members of the Senate Committee on Human Services
C/O Senator Sara Gelser, Chair
900 Court Street, NE
Salem, OR 97301

Re: Support for SB 140

Dear Chair Gelser, and Members of the Human Services Committee,

The Multnomah County Sheriff's Office (MCSO), expresses its support for SB 140, and the work of the East Metro Gang Enforcement Team (EMGET). MCSO has been a strong partner in EMGET, since its creation in 2005.

As a public safety executive, I attest that we would not be as effective in our regional – and even statewide - organized crime enforcement efforts without the concerted, specific, and knowledgeable approach employed by EMGET. Without this critical resource, individual law enforcement agencies would be forced to address organized criminal [gang] activity without the shared knowledge that furthers our collective operations. The net winner in that case would be organized crime, who would be able to continue conducting their networks, with the noted absence of a coordinated and persistent response from law enforcement.

Beyond shared intelligence and resources, the relationships that have developed within EMGET are valuable. Notably, EMGET is a partnership between the City of Gresham and MCSO, and the cities of Fairview, Troutdale, and Wood Village, by way of an MCSO contract for municipal law enforcement services. Additionally, EMGET consistently collaborates with the City of Portland's Gang Enforcement Team. This cohesion and coordination greatly improves the effectiveness of our enforcement efforts.

EMGET addresses a unique need in a growing and geographically challenging area, but the success of the team has a statewide return on investment. When EMGET is successful in addressing organized criminal activity, we are able to keep violent criminals, along with drug and human trafficking, from spilling in to other communities in the state. This means the movement of criminals and criminal activity is disrupted and suspects face our criminal justice system.

Thank you again for the opportunity to share MCSO's support for this critical resource; EMGET is a shining model of a prudent investment returning an excellent yield, and significantly improves the safety and livability of Oregon residents.

Sincerely,


Michael Reese
SHERIFF