



*Josephine County Board of Commissioners*  
*Darin J. Fowler, Commissioner*

March 29, 2019

The Honorable Jackie Winters  
The Honorable Carla Piluso  
Co-chairs, Public Safety Subcommittee

*Re: SB 5513, Oregon Judicial Department budget*

Dear Senator Winters and Representative Piluso:

I am writing to ask that you fully fund the Oregon Judicial Department (SB 5513).

Many people understand the role of the court in the criminal justice system, but I wanted to add some information on how it affects me/my organization.

As a Commissioner of Josephine County, we are directly affected by the Oregon Judicial Department, specifically when it is lacking funds. Our Sheriff's department, Community Corrections Department, and our Juvenile Justice Department are negatively affected by any budget cuts to the Judicial Department. A few examples that do not allow the County to function efficiently when the Judicial Department is not fully funded are: timely sentence hearings, docket delays increasing the jail population, limited docket times means hearings are set over keeping deputies in the courtroom instead of on the streets, and receiving timely restraining orders. Court oversights protect vulnerable citizens in our county such as women, children and seniors.

Please consider fully funding the Oregon Judicial Department (SB 5513) to keep communities protected and running more efficiently.

Sincerely,

Darin J. Fowler  
Josephine County Commissioner

COURTHOUSE

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