

Oregon State Legislature
Joint Committee on Ways and Means Subcommittee on Public Safety
Co-chair: Senator Chris Gorsek
Co-chair: Representative Janeen Sollman

April 6, 2021

Co-chairs,

I am writing to urge your support for funding for Oregon's Watch Center and the analytical services provided by the Oregon Department of Justice. For over 30 years, the Oregon Watch Center has worked behind the scenes to enhance public safety across the state, often providing the critical link that helps solve a case or find a missing person. The Watch Center has supported law enforcement by:

- Conducting Investigative Research on a Broad Range of Criminal Suspects and Organizations,
- Assisting with Locating Missing and Endangered Individuals,
- Coordinating Information Sharing among State, Federal, Tribal, and Local Law Enforcement,
- De-Conflicting Law Enforcement Operations,
- Providing Training on Investigative Tactics and Sources

Being among the states with the lowest number of law enforcement officers per capita in the country means that Oregon law enforcement must be efficient to be effective in serving the public; the services provided by the watch center have proven to be a vital part of that effort.

Thank you for the opportunity to express my support for the Watch Center and the analytical services at the Oregon DOJ.

Respectfully,

Sheriff Cody Bowen
Union County Sheriff's Office