

Written Testimony before the Senate Judiciary Committee in Support of Senate Bill 954

Dear Chair Prozanski, Vice-Chair Thatcher, and Senators Blouin, Linthicum, and Manning;

For the record I am Nathan Sickler, Sheriff of Jackson County. I have been the Sheriff for just over 6 years and I have 24 years of law enforcement experience. I recently served on the Governor's appointed HB 3000/SB1564 task force and I am on the Executive Committee and the Cannabis Sub-Committee for the Oregon State Sheriff's Association. I am providing written testimony on behalf of Jackson County and the Oregon State Sheriff's Association.

Southern Oregon has been impacted by the illicit marijuana industry for decades. However, the passing of Measure 91 has had profound impacts to our communities in Southern Oregon, to include, substantial cultivation of illegal cannabis, drug trafficking, environmental issues, water theft and misuse, increased violent crime, labor and human trafficking, land disputes, and increased cartel presence. The illegal industry has also had negative impacts on those who are trying to operate legitimate cannabis businesses in our valley.

While historically Southern Oregon has been at the forefront of these issues, those engaged in illegal marijuana production are now starting to move across the state and impacting other counties as well. We have seen instances of drug trafficking organizations operating in multiple parts of the state, which complicates investigations and prosecutions. SB 954 will aid in these types of investigations in that it will provide clarity for judges, prosecutors, and law enforcement regarding the application and signing of search warrants.

The locations where marijuana is illegally cultivated often have many other violations of law such as, but not limited to, building codes violations, land use violations, environmental issues, and the criminal issues as mentioned above. Some of these problems create hazardous situations such as risk of fire or have extensive negative impacts to the environment. Law enforcement generally does not have the expertise or training to navigate these issues thoroughly or safely. SB 954 will provide an avenue for the proper resources to accompany law enforcement, which will provide a better outcome for our communities.

I ask the committee to please support SB 954 as it will further aid in the removal of illegal marijuana cultivation sites and drug trafficking organizations from the state of Oregon.



Sheriff Nathan Sickler
Jackson County, Oregon