



# Oregon

Kate Brown, Governor

## Department of State Police

Headquarters  
3565 Trelstad Ave SE  
Salem, OR 97317-9614  
(503) 378-3720  
General Fax: (503) 363-5475  
V/TTY: (503) 585-1452



August 16, 2017

Mr. Jefferson B. Sessions III  
United States Attorney General

Dear Mr. Sessions III:

I am in receipt of your July 24, 2017 letter to Oregon Governor Kate Brown, discussing Oregon's regulatory structure and enforcement of marijuana. Within the letter, you reference an Oregon State Police report, titled, "*A Baseline Evaluation of Cannabis Enforcement Priorities in Oregon.*" This referenced report, attributed to my agency, is not a published report and is regrettably utilized to represent Oregon's efforts and compliance surrounding marijuana enforcement.

The Oregon State Police (OSP) did initiate a marijuana baseline report in 2016, in an effort to measure the enforcement and societal trends of a legalized market. It was designed to be a living document and the agency had no immediate plans to publish until objective data could be recovered for many years.

The report was intended to provide a baseline to assist in later measure of legalization efforts. For example, Oregon only began testing for cannabinoids in every vehicular fatality investigation on May 1, 2017, in addition to the testing for alcohol. This is obviously important to establishing marijuana's impact on Oregon's fatal crashes, as we have no definitive data to compare in previous years. Upon examination of early drafts, it was clear the report was in its infancy stage and objective data would be required to supplant many of the subjective or invalidated sources.

On March 18, 2017, a large news publication in Oregon ran a story on the report. Unfortunately, the first and least defensible draft of the report was leaked to the publication and it was sourced in the article. The agency attempted to make clear the document was not accurate, not validated, outdated and the Oregon State Police did not endorse the conclusions in the draft baseline report. Unfortunately, you sourced the same leaked draft document as evidence against Oregon's marijuana regulatory structure.



The Oregon State Police employs detectives on most of Oregon's cooperative drug enforcement teams, often leading inter-agency efforts in rural parts of our state. We were fortunate this legislative session, with the support of Governor Kate Brown, to add drug enforcement investigation positions- most of which are specifically dedicated to marijuana enforcement. These positions will be strategically placed to cooperatively support Oregon drug enforcement efforts, suppress organized crime and to aggressively maintain compliance with the Department of Justice *Cole Memorandum*.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Travis Hampton". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Travis Hampton Superintendent