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June 10, 2025

The Honorable Donald Trump
President
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Ave. NW
Washington, DC 20500

President Trump:

I write with concern about your proposal to eliminate funding for the Organized Crime Drug Enforcement Task Forces (OCDETF) and the severe impact this will have on local law enforcement efforts to fight fentanyl trafficking and dismantle major criminal organizations in Oregon and across the nation.

I am deeply concerned that the White House has proposed zeroing out funding for OCDETF, an independent entity within the Department of Justice (DOJ), in its fiscal year 2026 budget request. Defunding law enforcement in this manner will make it easier for major drug trafficking organizations to continue to transit fentanyl, methamphetamine, counterfeit prescription medication, and other illicit drugs into Oregon communities. Since 1982, OCDETF has been the centerpiece of DOJ strategy to counter organized crime and major drug trafficking organizations. According to DOJ, OCDETF is “accountable for over 500 federal prosecutors, 1,200 federal agents, and some 5,000 state/local police” and coordinates between dozens of member agencies involved in narcotics interdiction, including the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI), Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA), Homeland Security Investigations, U.S. Coast Guard, Postal Inspection Service, Financial Crimes Enforcement Network (FinCEN) and the Internal Revenue Service.

OCDETF provides vital investigatory support and coordination to law enforcement in Oregon. For example, on June 3, 2025, the leader of a drug trafficking cell in Lane County, Ore., was sentenced to federal prison in connection with the seizure of at least 384 pounds of methamphetamine in a case investigated by OCDETF. Similarly, in 2020, OCDETF launched an investigation that led to the dismantling of a major transnational drug trafficking and money laundering organization active in the Portland metropolitan area. Through this operation, OCDETF brought together the Gresham Police Department, Homeland Security Investigations, and the FBI, DEA, Oregon State Police, Portland Police Bureau, and Multnomah, Clackamas, and Clark County Sheriff’s Offices to investigate and take down this criminal enterprise. OCDETF-led interagency coordination is critical to unite federal, state, and local law enforcement agencies to effectively disrupt the operations of major transnational criminal organizations like the Sinaloa and Jalisco New Generation Cartels that have expanded operations

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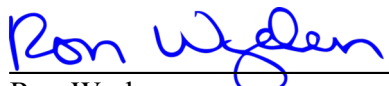
across the country in recent years. Given this record of success, it is astonishing that you have proposed zeroing out funding for this crucial law enforcement entity.

OCDETF also offers intelligence products and coordinates information sharing between local, state, and federal law enforcement through a fusion center and 19 OCDETF Strike Forces located in regions across the United States. The success of the Strike Force program, which, according to DOJ, establishes “permanent, multi-agency, prosecutor-led teams that conduct intelligence-driven, multi-jurisdictional operations against priority targets and their affiliate illicit financial networks,” is clear. In 2021, an investigation spearheaded by an OCDETF Strike Force in Portland, Oregon, led to the arrest of more than two dozen individuals and the “seizure of approximately 200,000 counterfeit oxycodone pills suspected to contain fentanyl, two pounds of fentanyl powder, 40 pounds of methamphetamine, 45 pounds of heroin, 13 pounds of cocaine, nine firearms, and more than \$1.4 million cash in drug proceeds.” Transnational criminal organizations use the Interstate 5 corridor, which runs from the Mexican border, through California, Oregon, and Washington, to the Canadian border as a primary route to traffic drugs like fentanyl into our communities. Alongside the High Intensity Drug Trafficking Areas program, OCDETF support is essential to coordinate the dozens of local, state, and federal law enforcement entities involved in countering this multi-state threat.

Finally, OCDETF provides investigatory and prosecutorial support to protect senior citizens from financial fraud. According to the FBI, individuals 60 and older lost a combined \$3.4 billion due to scams and fraud in 2023, and in 2024, that number rose to \$4.8 billion. The risks of scams targeting seniors is likely to continue to rise given the increase in frequency of artificial intelligence-based scams. OCDETF plays a crucial role in information-sharing with law enforcement agencies nationwide that protect elderly Americans from fraud and scams, and states and local governments will not be able to replace OCDETF’s intelligence-driven investigatory power.

I urge you to change course and reverse your proposal to terminate funding for OCDETF immediately.

Sincerely,



Ron Wyden
United States Senator

CC: Pam Bondi, Attorney General, Department of Justice