



**U.S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE**  
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District of Oregon  
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Salem OR Medical Cannabis Resource Center  
1469 Capital Street NE, Suite 100  
Salem, OR 97301

Dear Owner/Operator,

It has come to investigators' attention that you may be operating a "dispensary" for marijuana, or that property you own may be being used as a marijuana dispensary. Both Oregon and federal law make it illegal to sell marijuana – period. It makes no difference what purpose the marijuana is used for, or whether the sale is cloaked as a trade of marijuana in exchange for a "donation": distribution of marijuana in exchange for money violates the law. People and businesses who run these operations are subject to criminal prosecution, civil enforcement, and seizure of assets. Financing a marijuana dispensary or allowing one to operate on your property also violates federal law and could subject financiers and landlords to civil and criminal penalties – including forfeiture of any assets used in support of the distribution of marijuana.

We have witnessed an explosion in distribution of marijuana in Oregon in recent years. We are deeply concerned that this rise in distribution is exposing more and more healthy children to marijuana – at precisely the age when children need to function fully to grow, learn and develop. District Attorneys, Sheriffs, Police Chiefs and I today issued a statement emphasizing our concern about the illegal operation of marijuana dispensaries (see enclosed).

The prosecution of individuals and organizations involved in the distribution of any illegal drugs and the disruption of drug trafficking organizations is a core priority of the Department of Justice and District Attorneys throughout Oregon. While the Department does not focus its limited resources on seriously ill individuals who use marijuana as part of a medically recommended treatment regimen in compliance with state law, we will enforce federal law vigorously against individuals and organizations that participate in unlawful manufacture and distribution of marijuana. Federal actions may include charges for the illegal manufacture, distribution or possession with intent to distribute marijuana in violation of 21 U.S.C. § 841; charges for knowingly opening, leasing, maintaining, or using property for the manufacture, storage, or distribution of marijuana, in violation of 21 U.S.C. § 856, as well as federal money laundering statutes. In addition, property facilitating or used in these crimes is subject to forfeiture to the United States pursuant to 21 U.S.C. §§ 853, 881

I urge you to cease any distribution of marijuana in violation of federal law, and to take appropriate steps to ensure that your property is not being used to further criminal distribution of marijuana. If you have any questions, you may wish to seek independent legal advice.

Sincerely,

**Dwight C. Holton**  
**United States Attorney**  
**District of Oregon**