

**Congress of the United States**  
**House of Representatives**  
Washington, DC 20515

October 9, 2024

Chris Gibson  
Executive Director  
Oregon-Idaho HIDTA  
2110 Mission St SE, Suite 210  
Salem, OR 97302

Dear Executive Director Gibson,

Thank you for your work leading the Oregon-Idaho High Intensity Drug Trafficking Area (HIDTA). I write to inquire about the resources available to you in Oregon as you seek to reduce the impact of illegal drug trafficking and use throughout the region.

I recently held a listening tour to learn more about the effects of Ballot Measure 110 on the mental health and addiction crisis in Oregon. I visited every county in my district and met with local law enforcement, district attorneys, mental health professionals, and community leaders to gather their perspectives and discuss potential solutions following the repeal of Measure 110.

Throughout this tour, I repeatedly heard the concern that federal law enforcement agencies do not have enough boots on the ground to be effective partners in the fight against illicit drug trafficking. Specifically, I learned that the Washington County Sheriff's Office has seen federal partners pull out their agents, leaving only one co-located federal law enforcement partner in the entire county. It is my understanding that co-location of federal partners is a requirement for participation in the Oregon-Idaho HIDTA.

The role of the Oregon-Idaho HIDTA is to facilitate collaborative drug control efforts among local and federal law enforcement agencies. If federal partners cannot supply the necessary co-located agents, which in turn pushes local law enforcement out of the program, we risk creating large gaps in our region's drug enforcement efforts.

I would be grateful for your insights as I seek to better understand this issue, so that I may more effectively advocate for my constituents at the federal level. Specifically, I would appreciate your responses to the following questions:

- In your opinion, do federal law enforcement partners have enough agents co-located with local partners in Oregon to successfully coordinate on drug control efforts?
- How many federal law enforcement agents are permanently or semi-permanently co-located with local law enforcement in Oregon?

- What barriers do federal law enforcement agencies face in sustaining a presence in local law enforcement offices?
- If federal law enforcement is not doing their part, can you point to any specific underlying reasons (i.e. insufficient resources, conflicting priorities, etc)?
- What, if any, is the capability of Oregon-Idaho HIDTA to hold federal law enforcement agencies responsible for doing their part in implementing the HIDTA's counter-drug strategy?

Thank you for your attention to this matter. I know we share the same goal of reducing illegal drug use and trafficking in Oregon, saving lives in the process. I look forward to working with you to ensure local law enforcement and county officials have the resources – and the support from federal partners – to get the job done right.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Andrea Salinas". The script is fluid and cursive, with the first letters of the first and last names being capitalized and prominent.

Andrea Salinas  
Member of Congress