



Josephine County, Oregon

Daniel E. DeYoung, Herman E. Baertschiger Jr., and Darin J. Fowler

Josephine County Courthouse
Board of Commissioners' Office
500 NW 6th Street, Dept 6
Grants Pass, OR 97526
(541) 474-5221 #2

August 4, 2021

Governor Kate Brown
900 Court Street NE, Suite 254
Salem, OR 97301-4047

Re: **Narco-slavery**

Dear Governor Brown,

Narco-slavery occurs when organized criminal networks intimidate, relocate, exploit and abuse their laborers. Unfortunately, one consequence of cannabis legalization has been a tragic surge in **narco-slavery**. During recent cannabis enforcement operations, Josephine County officials have witnessed the appalling conditions to which laborers in the unsanctioned cannabis industry are subjected. Such conditions include:

- Feces everywhere;
- No running water or bathing facilities;
- Unrefrigerated food and dangerously unsanitary cooking facilities;
- Sleeping in containers stacked three-high;
- Living in tents and plywood shanties.

Some photos of recent raid sites are enclosed.

Typically, after law enforcement releases these workers from custody they have nowhere to go. We assume that many or most workers eventually get collected by their illicit employers and relocated to the next exploitive operation. The purpose of this letter is to assist you, Director Steve Marks, Commissioner Val Hoyle and your staff in your effort to learn about the extent and severity of this problem. We want to work together with you to end this human tragedy immediately.

Josephine County's point of contact for this matter is Sheriff Dave Daniel (541-474-5123).

Please confirm that you have received and read this letter.

Sincerely,

Board of County Commissioners

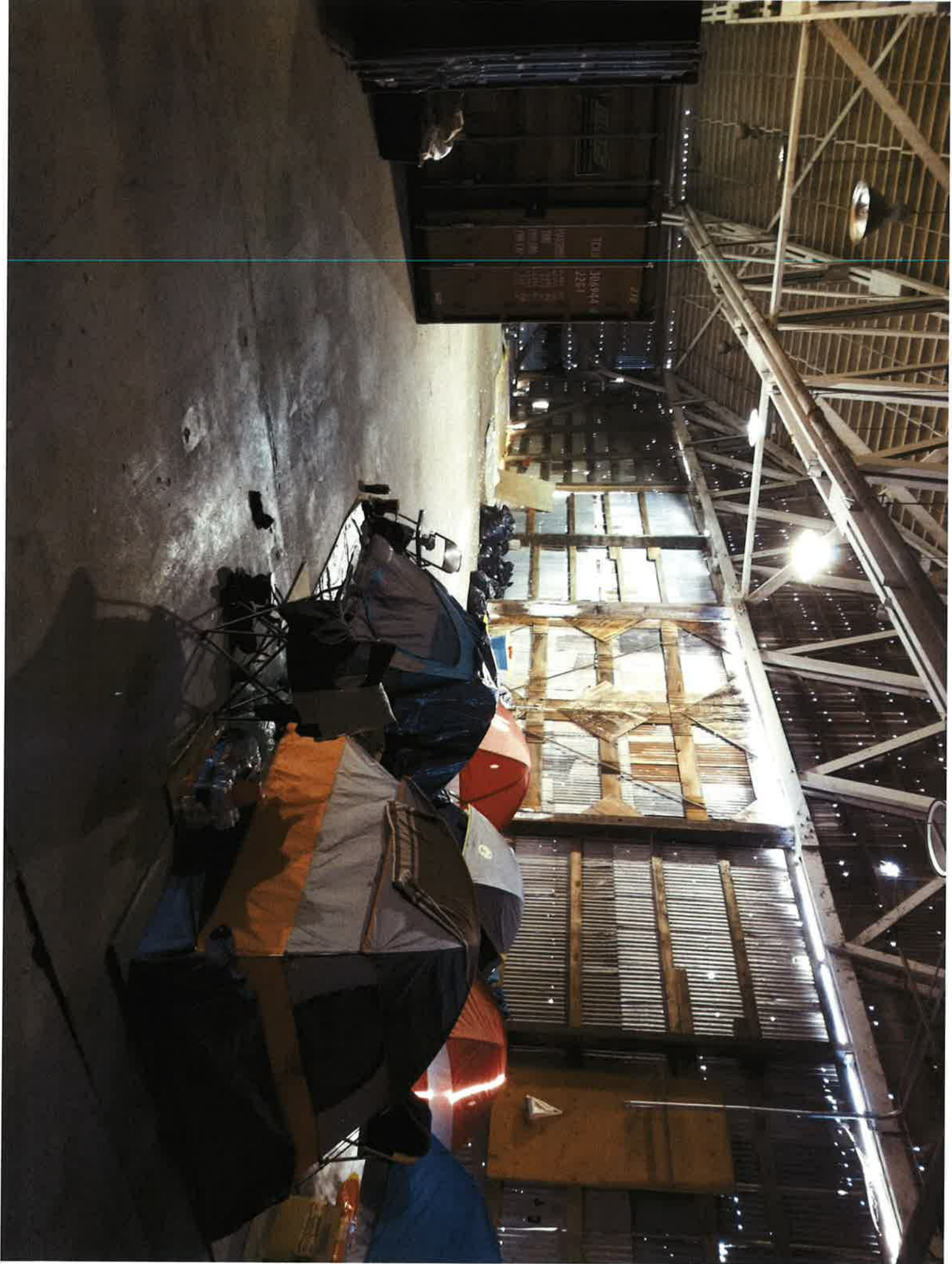
Daniel E. DeYoung, Chair

Herman E. Baertschiger Jr., Vice-Chair

Darin J. Fowler, Commissioner







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