



## **SENATOR JAMES I. MANNING JR.**

Senate District 7  
Oregon State Legislature

### **PRESS RELEASE**

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### **Senator Manning Statement on Federal Law Enforcement Occupation in Portland**

SALEM – For weeks, federal law enforcement has unconstitutionally occupied Portland, Oregon with the stated mission of protecting federal buildings and personnel. Instead, they have gone into the streets wearing camouflage and tactical gear and have been clearing demonstrators blocks away from federal property. These officers have become increasingly aggressive, using unlawful force and have hospitalized at least one person. They have pulled others off the streets and placed them in unmarked vehicles. Senator James Manning (D-Eugene) who co-chairs the Joint Committee on Transparency in Policing and Use of Force Reform had this to say in response:

"Portlanders and Oregonians have been taking to the streets to express valid concerns. To ensure we do not give up this overdue call for action against oppressive institutions, against inequities and against racist policing. These individuals have a right to be angry and a right to expect leaders to step up and lead. We need to make real changes and, rightfully, the protests won't stop until that occurs.

"Trump's paramilitary troops have acted dishonorably, and they are not protecting anyone. They are putting Oregonians lives and health at risk.

"The majority of these individuals protesting are not seeking more violence. They've seen enough. Black Oregonians have seen enough. They are there to exercise their rights, to speak against injustice, to make their voices heard.

"Trump sent his paramilitary troops down to silence the voices of peaceful protesters and cause a distraction from the ways he has made the United States a less safe place for Black and Brown people, especially during this public health crisis. He is adding to unrest and he is putting his citizens in harm's way for his own benefit. These paramilitary forces need to leave Oregon now. They have no place here."

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