

from the office of the

OR<u>EGON SENATE REPUBLICA</u>NS PRESS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE December 13, 2021 Contacts: Dru Draper <u>dru.draper@oregonlegislature.gov</u>

<u>As Cartels Exploit Border Crisis to Terrorize Southern Oregon,</u> <u>Republican Plan Clears Senate</u>

SALEM, Ore. – Joe Biden's border crisis has planted roots in Southern Oregon as cartels engage in large-scale humanitarian crimes. These cartels have engaged in human trafficking, murder, assault, stolen water during extreme heat and drought, and have engaged in illegal marijuana trafficking that seeks to profit at the expense of legitimate Oregon businesses.

"It is clear that law enforcement needs more help to stop these dangerous illegal operations," said Senate Republican Leader Tim Knopp (R-Bend). "This package gives our county partners the resources they need to hire the law enforcement and water masters to oversee the huge task they have in front of them. No matter how much we spend, we will continue to spin our wheels in this fight against the cartels if the southern border remains wide open. Human trafficking will continue, the violence against Oregonians will continue, and Oregon businesses will continue to pay the price until these illegal grow sites are completely eradicated from our state.

"For the health and well-being of Oregon, President Biden and Congress must immediately address the humanitarian crisis at the border. Oregonians' lives, livelihoods, waterways, and human dignity are on the line.

The Senate passed SB 893 by a vote of 28-0 and will now be considered by the House.

###