

# Congress of the United States

Washington, DC 20510

February 13, 2020

Mr. Billy J. Williams  
United States Attorney  
District of Oregon  
1000 SW Third Ave. Suite 600  
Portland, OR 97204

Dear Mr. Williams:

Like many Oregonians, we were deeply disturbed when we read this week's troubling Oregonian story entitled, "'Old-boy-style racism' by small-town cops leads to \$600,000 payout to Portland man."

This Feb. 12 story raises serious concerns about whether the West Linn Police Department may have violated the civil rights of Michael Fesser with the aid of Portland police officers by subjecting him to a cruel and prolonged odyssey of racial targeting that reflects the worst abuses of African-Americans in our nation's modern history.

While we realize the civil case resulted in a settlement for Mr. Fesser and that Governor Brown as well as the district attorneys in Clackamas and Multnomah counties have called for investigations at the state and county levels, we strongly believe a federal investigation is also merited into the possibility of federal violations that might suggest a civil rights violation rising to the level of criminal offenses.

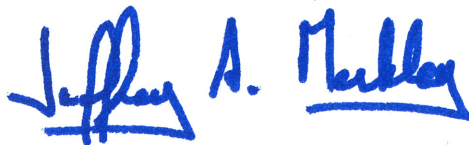
All Oregonians must have full confidence that law enforcement at every level will treat them with fairness and without prejudice motivated by race or personal animus. A federal investigation of whether law enforcement violated Mr. Fesser's civil rights will help to build that confidence, both by examining the facts in this case and sending a signal that every American's civil rights must be followed scrupulously.

We trust that you and your team of professional staff will follow all appropriate laws, regulations and procedures when deciding whether to look into this matter. We look forward to your prompt response.

Sincerely,



Ron Wyden  
United States Senator



Jeffrey A. Merkley  
United States Senator



Earl Blumenauer  
Member of Congress