

June 3, 2009

WASHINGTON, DC- Congressman Peter DeFazio (D-Springfield) today secured \$500,000 in critical funding for the South Coast Interagency Narcotics Team (SCINT). The funds will be used to hire three detectives and one full time support staff member. The federal funding will help ensure this critical task force can continue to fight the manufacture and trafficking of methamphetamines.

"SCINT has been vital in fighting the spread of meth epidemic on the Oregon Coast," DeFazio said. "I am pleased to secure funding for such an effective program which will help to keep our citizens safe."

SCINT was formed in 1988 when it became clear that, with a far reaching methamphetamine problem taking hold on the Oregon coast, individual law enforcement departments were not able to effectively provide man power, money or equipment to fight the increasing drug epidemic. SCINT assured that each member department had highly trained and experienced investigators to work with and train member agency police officers, reducing the impact of drugs and drug related crimes in the region. Despite scant funding this past year, SCINT has been extremely effective in seizing drugs and illegal firearms. But, in order to continue their good work, they require more funds.

The funding was included in the Commerce, Justice and Science Appropriations Act of 2010, which passed out of Subcommittee today. The measure now must be considered by the full Appropriations Committee.