Columbia County Sheriff Jeff Dickerson today answered concerns of citizens worried about potential overreaching by federal authorities in the current gun control debate. The sheriff authored an open letter to County citizens underscoring his long-held support for the the Constitution and the 2nd Amendment in the Bill of Rights (go **here** to read the letter).

The letter was in response to citizens who wanted to make sure their sheriff was in agreement with the comments made by Linn County Sheriff Tim Mueller in a letter to Vice President Joe Biden yesterday.

"Sheriffs in Oregon agree that one of their primary responsibilities is to safeguard the constitutional protections of our basic rights," the sheriff said. " 'The right of the people to keep and bear arms, shall not be infringed,' the Second Amendment says. I take those words pretty seriously."

"Clearly, there are things the federal government can do to tighten enforcement of current laws and help insure that only law-abiding citizens have access to firearms, and we have to focus our energies on those things, without infringing on the rights of the good citizens in our county."

For a scholarly piece on the importance of the Second Amendment, the sheriff recommends an article that appeared in Imprimis magazine in March 2013, written by Edward J. Erler, Ph.D. Dr. Erler is professor of political science at California State University, San Bernadino. His article entitled, "The Second Amendment as an Expression of First Principles" can be found HERE .