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**OHIO MAN SENTENCED FOR PARTICIPATING IN MAJOR DRUG CONSPIRACY**

***Provided Storage Facility For the Receipt and Distribution of Nearly Two and Half Tons of Marijuana***

HUNTINGTON, W. Va. – A Zanesville, Ohio man was sentenced yesterday for participating in a large-scale marijuana conspiracy operating in West Virginia and Ohio. Jason Luburgh, 27, was sentenced yesterday to 46 months in prison by United States District Judge Robert C. Chambers. Luburgh previously pleaded guilty to conspiracy to distribute 50 kilograms or more of marijuana for remuneration.

The conviction stems from a joint investigation conducted by the Drug Enforcement Administration, Putnam County Sheriff's Department and the Metropolitan Drug Enforcement Network Team. According to court documents, Luburgh agreed to allow others to use a large, family garage in Zanesville as a storage facility for the receipt and distribution of massive amounts of marijuana. Luburgh admitted that from 2007 to September 2009, he allowed at least six shipments of marijuana, averaging approximately 800 pounds per shipment, to be stored at his family garage. In return, Luburgh received approximately \$1,800 from each shipment. The investigation revealed that following each shipment, other members of the conspiracy obtained multi-pound quantities of marijuana from the storage facility for distribution in West Virginia and Ohio. In addition to his prison sentence, Luburgh agreed to forfeit to the Government \$10,000 in cash, which represents proceeds from the drug conspiracy.

As a result of the investigation, seventeen individuals, including Luburgh, have been charged for their roles in the multi-state conspiracy. Eight of those charged have pleaded guilty.

Assistant United States Attorney Monica L. Dillon is handling the prosecution.

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