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March 25, 2015

The Honorable Senator Richard Devlin, Co-Chair
The Honorable Representative Peter Buckley, Co-Chair
The Honorable Senator Chip Shields, Co-Chair of Public Safety Sub-Committee
The Honorable Representative Jennifer Williamson, Co-Chair of Public Safety Sub-Committee
Joint Committee on Ways and Means
State Capital
900 Court Street NE
Room H-178
Salem, Oregon 97310-4048

RE: Information about the implementation of HB 3194 in Union County

To All Concerned Individuals:

This letter is in response to a request for information regarding the role of District Attorneys in the implementation of HB 3194 in our respective counties.

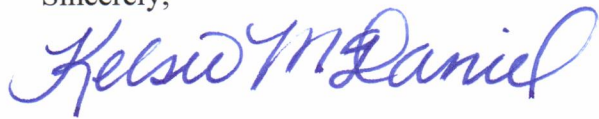
The Union County District Attorney's Office has implemented the sentencing reforms required by HB 3194. We participated in the 2013-15 Justice Reinvestment Grand Program and received \$114,730. The District Attorney at the time, Tim Thompson, together with the Union County Sheriff, Union County Commissioners and Union County Community Corrections, worked to decide the best way that these funds should be used to reduce recidivism and thereby reduce the need for prison resources. Union County decided to utilize the Justice Reinvestment Grant Program Funds for incarceration of offenders not successful or compliant with community based programs offered through our Community Corrections department.

Union County suffers from a deficiency of local jail beds available to law enforcement. The Union County Correctional Facility maintains 37 jail beds, 8 of which are given priority to Wallowa County as a contracted partnering agency. The facility is full nearly all of the time. Our county functions with a matrix system that systematically releases an average of an offender a day for no other reason than overcrowding. There is often no room to sanction Community Corrections offenders effectively. Specifically, we have used the funds to contract with both

Baker and Umatilla Counties to house Union County offenders on our behalf. This funding has allowed us to sanction non-compliant offenders locally, thus reducing the prison population.

Please let me know if you need any additional information or if I can answer any questions.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Kelsie J. Davis McDaniel". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Kelsie J. Davis McDaniel
Union County District Attorney