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OFFICE OF THE DISTRICT ATTORNEY
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March 24, 2015

The Honorable Senator Richard Devlin, Co-Chair
The Honorable Representative Peter Buckley, Co-Chair
The Honorable Senator Chip Shielfs, 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 Capitol
900 Court Street NE
Room H-178
Salem, OR 97310-4048

RE: HB 3194 and Columbia County

To All Concerned Individuals:

This letter is a response to the request for information on the role the District Attorney may have within the public safety system to implement HB 3194. I will briefly discuss what we do, the recent statistics, and the question of funding.

Columbia County continues to use several programs that tend to reduce incarceration rates. These include diversion programs that allow offenders to avoid prison upon satisfactory performance on probation. We also participate in and support two treatment courts - a dependency court and a drug court.

The Columbia County drug court currently has twenty-five participants. Eighteen have suspended prison sentences (fourteen males and four females). The total prison time deferred is 658 months. The average time deferred is 36.5 months per participant. Those who have recently graduated from the program avoided prison time of over 90 months.

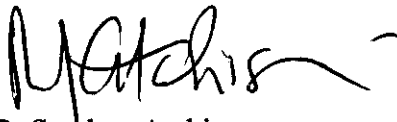
The last N.W. Coastal RIC report lists a 61.8% drop in "prison months" for Columbia County in 2014 versus 2013. In the same time period, prison intakes have been reduced from 50 to 24.

March 25, 2015

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The Columbia County District Attorney does not receive Justice Reimbursement Fund revenue. We do not plan to apply for such funds in the future. Those funds are better used to support local community corrections programs that directly assist offenders.

Very truly yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "R. Stephen Atchison". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke at the end.

R. Stephen Atchison
District Attorney
Columbia County, Oregon

RSA:dh