



# Oregon

Kate Brown, Governor

## Oregon Department of Corrections

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Representative Julie Parrish  
900 Court St. NE, H-371  
Salem, Oregon 97301

Dear Representative Parrish,

This letter solidifies the commitment of the Oregon Department of Corrections (DOC) to explore a pilot project that would enable the agency to work with vendors in utilizing corrugated cardboard pallets for in-bound freight. The goal of the pilot is to determine how DOC could implement this concept starting in the 2017-19 biennium. A critical factor to this project is our ability to implement the concept without compromising our ability to provide constitutionally-mandated services to an inmate population of more than 14,600. We believe we can accomplish this with a thoughtful approach.

DOC has proven its commitment to sustainability through its overall sustainability efforts, including the establishment of an agency-wide recycle center, expansion of gardening and composting programs in all 14 DOC prisons, and conservation work, just to name a few. This pilot would allow us to take another step in the right direction toward sustainability.

Our commitment includes three main components:

- A detailed report back to the legislature during the December 2016 Legislative Days.
- Ongoing reports back to the Speaker's Office, the Chair of the House Committee on Transportation and Economic Development, and to Representative Julie Parrish.
- An ongoing effort to work with DOC vendors to study how a pilot, mandating that by 2021, up to 10 percent of all in-bound freight must be received on corrugated cardboard pallets, would impact agency procurement efforts and overall cost, as well as outlining implementation and logistics challenges.

If we find that one or more vendors would be ready to start a pilot project before the December 2016 report, we would include the findings and lessons learned in the legislative report as well.

We appreciate your willingness and flexibility in working with us as we approach this new concept. And, I appreciate the conversations we had last week, both in your office and over the phone. Again, DOC is committed to sustainability, and we thank you for entrusting us as the agency who can successfully implement this concept.

Sincerely,

Colette S. Peters  
Director