



Wheeler County

County Court

PO Box 447 * Fossil * Oregon * 97830-0447

Wheeler County Courthouse * 701 Adams Street

Ph (541) 763-2912 * www.wheelercountyoregon.com

February 14, 2017

The Honorable Jackie Winters, Co-Chair
The Honorable Duane Stark, Co-Chair
Joint Ways & Means Subcommittee on Public Safety
Oregon State Capitol
Salem, OR 97310

Dear Co-Chair Winters, Co-Chair Stark, and Members of the Subcommittee:

Thank you for the opportunity to provide comments on House Bill 5005 – the Criminal Justice Commission's agency budget bill. In a small county like Wheeler County, we appreciate any assistance we receive to support our public safety system.

We have used \$100,000 in justice reinvestment dollars to support risk and assessment needs of offenders in the community, transition support from prison, treatment programs, and victim services programs.

For us to continue these enhanced programs, we are advocating for funding at a level for this program as well as protected cuts to community corrections grant-in-aid baseline funding through the Department of Corrections.

Justice Reinvestment has helped our local public safety coordinating council (LPSCC) collaborate more on these issues, finding effective and efficient ways to manage offenders at the local level. Through a grant with the Criminal Justice Commission, we have also been able to receive staff support for our LPSCC. This allows us to continue moving our progress to the next level. We ask for more time and adequate justice reinvestment funding to keep doing this work.

Thank you very much for your consideration.

Sincerely,

N. Lynn Morley
Wheeler County Judge