



From the desk of:
Oregon State Representative Mark Owens
House District 60

Joint Ways & Means Subcommittee on Public Safety
jwmps.exhibits@oregonlegislature.gov

RE: Proposed Closure of Warner Creek

July 23, 2020

Co-Chairs Senator Manning and Rep. Sollman, Committee members:

Colleagues, I write today to discuss my outrage at the proposed closure of the Warner Creek Correctional Facility in Lakeview.

This facility is critical to the survival of the town of Lakeview and the surrounding areas. Closing it would mean the loss of over one hundred local family-wage jobs. Make no mistake, Lake County cannot sustain this type of a loss. It would devastate this small community.

It is also my understanding there is not enough capacity in Oregon's other prisons to transition the almost 500 inmates to other locations. Warner Creek is one of the newest prisons in Oregon—it would be a shame to close a newer facility in favor of keeping older ones open that are more expensive to operate.

I urge the Committee to reconsider this closure, and to find the necessary budgetary reductions elsewhere.

Sincerely,

Representative Mark Owens
House District 60



E. WERNER RESCHKE
STATE REPRESENTATIVE
DISTRICT 56

July 23, 2020

TO: Honorable Co-Chair Senator James Manning, Jr.,
Honorable Co-Chair Representative Janeen Sollman,
Honorable Members of the Interim Joint Ways & Means Committee on Public Safety

RE: Opposition to Closing Warner Creek Correctional Facility

These are difficult times. Budgets are tight and state revenue is expected to be down. It is imperative that budget decisions made by this government take into consideration not only short-term effects but long-term consequences. Looking at budgets as mere numbers, where each dollar is seen the same as every other dollar, is a short-sighted approach and will inevitably mean future, unintended harm to Oregonians.

I write today in opposition to closing the Warner Creek Correctional Facility in Lakeview, Oregon. While the purpose of a correctional facility is not meant to be an economic driver, when placed in a small community such as Lakeview, a correctional facility cannot help but be just that. Lakeview's population is roughly 2,300. Assuming 50% of those are children and another 10-15% are retired, closing Warner Creek will eliminate family wage jobs for at least 15-20% of Lakeview's workforce. This would be like the State of Oregon going to the city of Eugene and closing the University of Oregon or to Hillsboro and closing Intel. The economic impacts to families, businesses, school districts, hospitals, city and county governments would be devastating. The time for a community to recover from such a drastic closure is incalculable.

In addition to the economic impacts, Warner Creek Correctional Facility is the second newest facility among Oregon's 14 correctional facilities. Closing this modern facility, when other facilities are much older and far more expensive to maintain and operate, is simply not a judicious use of taxpayer funding. Moreover, Warner Creek is Oregon's greenest correctional facility with geothermal energy able to keep Warner Creek's operational costs comparatively low. As energy prices increase, this green geo-thermal benefit will make Warner Creek's operational costs even more advantageous.

There is much more I can say, but to keep this letter concise, I will close by stating I appreciate the committee's willingness to postpone the discussion of Warner Creek's future until the 2021 Legislative long session. That is the appropriate venue to continue this discussion and find the right path forward — for Warner Creek as well as the Department of Corrections.

Sincerely,

E. WERNER RESCHKE
State Representative
Southern Klamath & Lake Counties

LYNN P. FINDLEY
State Senator



DISTRICT 30

Baker, Grant, Harney,
Jefferson, Malheur,
Wasco, Wheeler and
parts of Clackamas,
Deschutes, Lake
and Marion Counties

OREGON SENATE

Joint Sub-Committee on Public Safety
Oregon State Legislature
900 Court St.
Salem, OR 97301

Subject: Warner Creek Correctional Facility

Honorable Co-Chairs Manning and Sollman,

Thank you for your considerations in removing the Warner Creek Correctional Facility from the list of potential cuts, I know that there are many difficult decisions to make moving forward with the current budget climate being so incredibly dire for the State of Oregon.

Warner Creek Corrections is the second newest correctional facility in Oregon. To see a facility of this age be shut down would have been a large loss for the state. In addition to the age of the facility, Warner Creek has geothermal capabilities making their operational costs and footprint very efficient.

The local economy of Lakeview depends on this facility. Warner Creek supports 110 employees in a highly depressed economy, a shutdown of this scale would have been catastrophic to such a rural community.

Any further discussion of such a shutdown would only be appropriate during the long session, where proper analysis can be completed and reviewed.

Sincerely,

Lynn P. Findley



HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

July 23, 2020

Co-Chairs Manning and Sollman
Joint Committee on Ways and Means Subcommittee on Public Safety
900 Court Street NE
Salem, OR 97301

Co-Chairs Manning and Sollman and Committee Members,

I am in opposition to closing Warner Creek Correctional Facility in the 2021-2023 biennium. Warner Creek Correctional Facility is economically vital to Lake County, to the employees and equally to the community.

When the State chose the prison to be built in the community of Lakeview, there was an enormous buy-in and commitment from the residents of Lake County, the local governments and surrounding/supporting industries. The State did due diligence prior to siting and made a commitment to the community of Lake County with its final decision. Lake County committed to the State, the State needs to remain committed to Lake County.

Warner Creek Correctional Facility is one of the newest correctional facilities in the State of Oregon. The facility received the State Energy Efficiency Design Award after completion. When comparing this facility and its energy efficiency to other facilities currently in use and in much need of maintenance and repair, further consideration for how best to utilize the facility should be given careful analysis. Something we haven't had time to do in the short budget process.

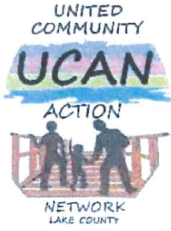
The 2021-23 biennium is quickly coming upon us and as we try to balance our budgets, it is imperative to make thoughtful and careful decisions to stabilize economic factors around our state and throughout our communities. I strongly urge this committee to take the time to look at the whole correctional picture, not just the snapshot.

Thank you for your consideration of this letter and how it affects my district.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Vikki Breese Iverson".

Vikki Breese-Iverson
State Representative
District 55



A collaboration of community partners to promote well-being and healthy actions in Lake County

700 South J St. | Lakeview, OR 97630
(541) 947-2114 ext. 441 | ucaninlakecounty@gmail.com

July 23, 2020

To the Honorable Co-Chairs Senator Manning Jr. and Representative Sollman; and Honorable Members of the Joint Interim Ways & Means Committee on Public Safety:

As co-chairs of Lake County's United Community Action Committee (UCAN), we urge you not to advance the proposal to close Warner Creek Correctional Facility to help balance the state budget. We understand how serious Oregon's budget shortfall is, and we know the Legislature must make difficult decisions in the days ahead. All Oregonians will feel the impacts, and some communities will experience more cuts than others. We urge you to carefully consider the effects cuts will have on frontier counties such as Lake, which lack the diverse resources available in other areas of the state.

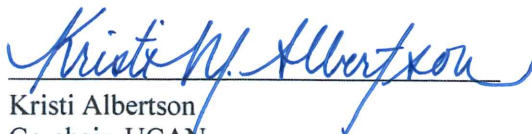
Warner Creek Correctional Facility contributes \$13 million a year to Lake County's economy. This is significant in a county of 8,000 people where the median household income is \$36,600 and more than 18% of the population lives below the federal poverty line. The county already has a limited tax base. If Warner Creek Correctional closes, 108 people will lose their jobs, further diminishing Lake County's tax rolls and hamstringing the county budget.

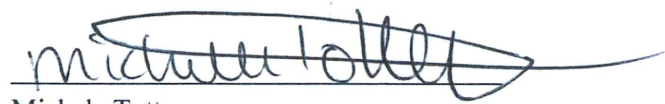
We know one of the state's top priorities is protecting funding for schools. Closing Warner Creek Correctional Facility will have the opposite effect in Lake County. If the newly jobless families leave the county when the prison closes, Lakeview schools will lose 82 students, and Paisley will have nine fewer children — 10% of that school's student body. Student population affects the amount funding schools receive. Closing the prison means fewer students, which means Lake County will receive less funding for education.

The inmates, too, are contributing to Lake County. Their participation in IAE's Sagebrush in Prisons Project is restoring critical habitat for threatened and endangered species, including the greater sage grouse. Warner Creek Correctional donates produce when its garden overproduces. The prison's work crew shovels snow for older adults in the winter, mows and prepares Little League fields in the spring, and splits wood for the energy assistance program in the fall.

Closing the prison would devastate our county. We urge the committee not to close Warner Creek Correctional Facility.

Sincerely,


Kristi Albertson
Co-chair, UCAN


Michele Totten
Co-chair, UCAN



ANDERSON ENGINEERING AND SURVEYING, INC.
PROFESSIONAL ENGINEERS AND LAND SURVEYORS

17681 Hwy. 395, Lakeview, Oregon 97630
(541) 947-4407 Fax (541) 947-2321
www.andersonengineering.com

July 22, 2020

Senator James Manning Jr., Co-Chair; Representative Janeen Sollman, Co-Chair
Senator Denyc Boles, Member; Senator Michael Dembrow, Member
Representative Janelle Bynum, Member; Representative Gary Leif, Member
Representative Tawna Sanchez, Member; Representative Duane Stark, Member

Ways and Means Public Safety Subcommittee
900 Court St NE, Room H-178
Salem, OR 97301

RE: Rebalance Plan for Agency Reductions – Oregon DOC, Warner Creek Correctional Facility

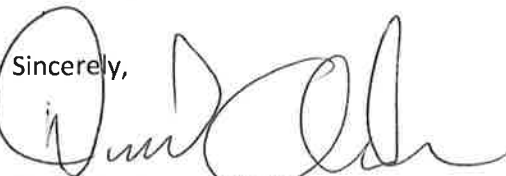
Dear Co-Chairs and Committee Members;

It has been brought to our attention that the Warner Creek Correctional Facility is under consideration to be closed. This facility provides over 100 jobs here in Lakeview, and closing it would be devastating to our small economy. This would have severe impacts on our schools, the Town of Lakeview municipal budget, the Lake County budget, and our community services.

Our firm developed the geothermal hot water supply wells and injection systems which heat the Warner Creek Correctional Facility with the local 204-degree hot water resource. Sources within the Oregon Department of Corrections have indicated this investment was paid off quickly and that the State of Oregon has saved \$10,000 per month in heating costs. This system has been operating well for the past 15 years and is sustainable and efficient.

Our firm employs 8 professionals in Lakeview, and will be impacted by this closure. The effect of 100 lost jobs will reduce both public and private development in the area, which our firm depends on to stay in business.

We urge you not to consider this closure, and look at other options. Our firm is always available to help in any way in this decision.

Sincerely,


Darryl Anderson, PE, PLS
President



Lake County Board of Commissioners

513 Center Street
Lakeview, Oregon 97630
(541) 947-6003
Fax: (541) 947-5775

Bradley J. Winters, Chairman
James Williams, Vice-Chairman
Mark Albertson, Commissioner

July 22, 2020,

Honorable Co-Chair Senator Manning, Jr.
Honorable Co-Chair Representative Sollman
Honorable Members of the Joint Interim Ways & Means Committee on Public Safety

Greetings Co-Chairs and members of the Committee:

I am Chair of the Lake County Board of Commissioners and I am representing the Board. Our Community is extremely concerned about the possible closure of the Warner Creek Correctional Facility. The loss of 108 jobs in Lakeview, Oregon is quite simply catastrophic to our rural community.

The loss of 108 jobs means that 62 homes will be for sale. The loss means 82 less children in the Lakeview schools and seven less students at the Paisley school. 82 students may not sound like a lot, but it's 10% of the entire student body in Lakeview, and seven students make up 13% of the Paisley school.

According to the State of Oregon Employment Department, the Warner Creek Correctional Facility also supports an additional 101 jobs including indirect business purchases from suppliers and household spending on locally produced goods and services. In fact, the total annual labor impacts to our region according to OED is \$12,875,791.00. WCCF is in the top five employers in Lake County and 108 jobs make up 4.8% of Lakeview's workforce. Total employment impact from the closure would be 209 jobs, which is 9.3% of Lakeview's workforce.

Our economy does not rebound from severe economic jolts easily and certainly not quickly. We are not prison management experts, but we do know that Warner Creek Correctional Facility is one of the newer, and greener prisons in Oregon. They recently upgraded to LED lighting, which saves the State an average of \$3,000 per month. Plus, the geothermal energy they utilize which saves an annual \$296,000 in energy costs. If WCCF used propane as the primary fuel they would spend an average cost of \$348,000 per year. In addition, the use of geothermal provides \$52,000 in utility revenue to the Town of Lakeview yearly.

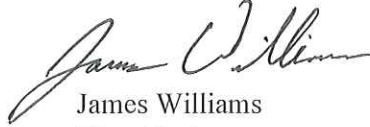
Warner Creek Correctional Facility has been a great partner and benefit to community; the work crew program has been immense help. For example, they have done projects for the Little League Fields, routinely help with State and County Park maintenance, Lake County Airport, High Desert Storm Trooper Snowmobile Trails, projects for the Federal Agencies. The work crew also helps provide firewood for the KLAS Energy Assistance program for elderly and indigent.

We, the citizens of Lake County urge you to look at other options to deal with the State's budget issues, we simply cannot afford the blow to our local economy.

Sincerely,



Bradley J. Winters
Chair



James Williams
Vice-Chair



Mark Albertson
Commissioner



Phone: 541-943-3111
Fax: 541-943-3129

Paisley School District No. 11

*P. O. Box 97
260 Green Street
Paisley, OR 97636
Paul Hauder, Superintendent
Mollie O'Leary, Business Manager*

Directors

*Glen Hewton, Chair
Brady Murphy, Vice-Chair
Bob Story
Becky Halford-Hyde
David Shanahan*

July 21, 2020

Dear Oregon Legislator,

I am writing this letter in my role as district superintendent to urge you to consider the implications of a potential prison closure bill that includes the facility in our county, Warner Creek Correctional Facility.

While the apparent goal of such a closure is to defray cuts to school funding, I believe passage of such a measure would have a negative impact on our school, as well as a negative impact on our county economy. This would further impact our school.

At minimum, our school would lose 13% of our student enrollment. This loss would be the result of several primary breadwinners having to transfer to another facility. There are no similar job opportunities in Lake County, so their options would be to join the already burgeoning ranks of the unemployed, become underemployed or move their families to another community. All of the prison employees in our enrollment area are vested, long-time staff members of the state prison system, so the odds are significant that they would do the latter: move.

Our county-seat, Lakeview, would be impacted even more. The ripple effect of lost jobs in this challenging time would be devastating, as Warner Creek is a major employer in Lake County.

Please consider removing this facility from the list of potential closures. While budget cuts are not pleasant to consider—in both your role and mine—there has to be a less impactful option.

Thank you for your consideration of this important matter.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Paul Hauder". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Paul Hauder
Superintendent, Paisley School District



Honorable Co-Chair Senator Manning Jr.

Honorable Co-Chair Representative Sollman

Honorable Members of the Joint Committee on Public Safety,

I am writing in overwhelming support of the Retention of Warner Creek Correctional Facility. As the Lake County Chamber of Commerce Executive Director along with the Board of Directors, we speak to you on behalf of our business community as well as the overall wellbeing of our county. Warner Creek Correctional Facility employs 108 local citizens of Lake County, that is 108 families to stand negatively affected by its possible closure. These employees are paid a higher living wage along with State health benefits. They own 62 homes in our County and have 82 children in our schools. They contribute immensely to our local business in immeasurable ways. Employees use their health benefits to see our local Doctors and Dentists. They buy their vehicles from our locally owned car dealership, they coach little league, they frequent our family owned restaurants they volunteer at our fair, rodeo, ski hill and so on. The economic impact losing these employees is one we fear would take years upon years to recover, the impact will trickle down to loss of revenue for our local businesses, our schools, our housing market, our community organizations, and so on. Lake County is rural and before Covid-19 was thriving with new industry (Red Rock Biofuels) and a successful tourism destination boasting wide open spaces, hiking and biking trails for miles, booming agriculture and skies so dark you can see the milky way from your back yard. This Pandemic has hit us as well as the rest of the State and Nation hard. Lake County can recover, we can persevere, we can again begin to thrive in recovery when it is safe to do so. Losing Warner Creek Correctional Facility will severely hamper our ability to recover, so much so that we may not.

Warner Creek Correctional Facility is, to our county much more than a prison, an employer, or an economic driver. Warner Creek Correctional Facility to Lake County is our families, our children, our teachers, our coaches, our volunteers, our neighbor's and our friends. The closing of this prison undoubtedly will devastate our community for years to come.

Lake County Chamber of Commerce and the below list of businesses urge you to reconsider any decision to close Warner Creek.

Ace Hardware	Cycle Town Coffee Shop
Les Schwab Tire	The Red Barn Boutique
Hall Motor Company	K Bar 6 Construction
Simply Blessed Bags	Warner Mt. Gun Club
Brian J Bauer Horseshoeing	Chewaucan Garage
K&K Distributing	El Aguila Real Restaurant
Tj's Family Fun Center	The New Amsterdam
Nolte-Fuller Insurance	PizzaVilla
Lakeview Trinity Baptist Church	Talbott Ranch
Desert Rose Funeral Chapel	The Dinner Bell
The Golden Gem	Coyote Quick Stop
Favell-Utley Reality	GK Sound booth
The Painted Fringe Boutique	Buckaroo Buddha
Lake County Examiner	Blarney's Coffee
GT Stoffel Trucking	Ladybug Creations
High Country 4 Wheelers	Bender's Digital Concepts
Hunan Chinese Restaurant	Fletch-n-Strings Archery
Klamath Eye Center	TNET Broadband Internet
Lakeview Eye Center	Tracy Electric
High Desert Storm Troopers	Jerry's Restaurant
Crystal's Chimney Sweep	Angel Feather's Photography by Shannon
The Cozy Cottage	Purse Paradise & More
Outback Hair Company	Happy Horse Deli
Adams Mobile Repair	The Adel Store
CT Design Studio	Affordable Fitness
North Lake Irregulars	Commune 222
Juniper's RV Resort	Lakeridge Golf Course
Sand City Lodge	R&M Fabrication
The Eagles Nest	Murphy Ranch

Mountain View Adult Foster Home

OJG Enterprise LLC

Precision Auto Body

White Hill Ranch

Shear Experience

Hair Barn

KORV 93.5

The Indian Village

70 Ranch

Tall Town Bike & Camp

Heavenly Thai

Childress Rentals

Razor's Edge Salon

Operation Battle Party

Warner Valley Property Management

Warner Mountain Medical Clinic

Lake Health District

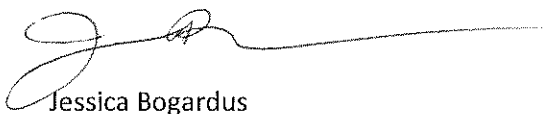
Tall Town Restaurant

Lakeview Easy Storage

Honker Mall

Al's Janitorial Service

Thank you sincerely for your time and consideration,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Jessica Bogardus', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Jessica Bogardus

Executive Director

Lake County Chamber of Commerce

Subject:

Date: Tuesday, July 21, 2020 11:21:54 AM

From: just me <korinarae726@gmail.com>

Sent: Sunday, July 19, 2020 8:39 PM

To: Rep Owens <Rep.MarkOwens@oregonlegislature.gov>

Subject:

Dear Rep. Owen's,

Please vote NO to closing the Warner Creek Correctional Facility in Lakeview Oregon and save our community!

Our town would take a devastating drop if this happens.

As a teacher, our schools would lose many kids. As a business owner, businesses will close if this happens. Our community is already small, with very few jobs, and this would be a devastating closure that would affect the entire small community. Warner Creek Correctional Facility employees many people in this town, and when you consider the spouses of those employees, the schools would lose teachers, businesses owned by employees spouses would close, numerous families (300 - 500 people) would be forced to move, to collect unemployment, and be forced into using welfare programs - food stamps, TANF, Public health plans, etc...

This wouldn't just affect the employees, but it would throw the entire town into a depression. Our community suffered severe loss when the mills and factories shut down over the past 20 years, and the prison being built here was the only thing that saved our community. We currently only have 1 pharmacy, 1 grocery store, a few gas stations, and 3 small schools. We had 5 schools, 3 grocery stores, 10 gas stations, 5 pharmacies, and the downtown was full of businesses in the 90's and we already lost so much due to the closure of the Mills and factories. If the prison closes down it would take at least 11 small business I know of, as well as likely close another school and force K - 6 grades and 7 - 12 grades into 1 building. Several teachers would lose their jobs due to less students, and it would absolutely be the end of our small community. PLEASE consider this when voting next month. Our hospital was able to build bigger and better and better over the past 6 years with multiple doctors and specialist, cancer treatments available right here, OB/GYN, pediatricians, etc....before the prison was built we had a handful of doctors, and had to drive 200 - 800 miles for the birth of babies, cancer treatments, and any type of specialists. Our hospital would likely close most of its doors, which would affect many employees there as well. That would affect everyone left in the community.

I personally would lose my job, and my disabled son would lose his physician and therapists. I can't afford to move financially, or personally, because all my families support is here. As a fellow Republican I believe in hard work, working for a living, and doing the best we can to support yourself and your family - what this closure would do to me, and my family personally, is force us into get as much financial help as we could, which is more tax payer money (food stamps/SNAP benefits, TANF, Health Care, etc...).

This closure would likely displace at least half of our community. Please help save a small town! Please!

Korina Sazama

korinarae726@gmail.com

1077 Linda Lane

Lakeview, Or. 97630

541-379-2440

Subject: FW: Closing of WCCF
Date: Tuesday, July 21, 2020 11:16:10 AM

From: b.goetsch1@yahoo.com <b.goetsch1@yahoo.com>
Sent: Tuesday, July 21, 2020 10:28 AM
To: Rep Owens <Rep.MarkOwens@oregonlegislature.gov>
Subject: Closing of WCCF

Good morning,

I understand that the state of Oregon is in unprecedented and trying times financially. The closing of WCCF in Lakeview does not make sense. Isn't it true that this is one of the newest and most green efficient facilities in ODOC? It is heated completely with geothermal heat and has one of the lowest costs per day to house Adults in Custody? They grow a lot of their own food and are a key player in the community by providing resources for fighting wildland fires in southern Oregon. They also provide the resource to the local seniors in Lakeview by providing firewood to many as their only source of heat during the winter. WCCF is also the only state prison in southern Oregon that provides housing to Adults in Custody the opportunity to have visits from families which DOC admits is critical in the rehabilitation process. While the short term impact seems easy to close this facility the long term effect will devastate the Lake County community and the Town of Lakeview. The Adults in Custody have an impact on the community but the staff at WCCF are just as important as they provide the resource as volunteers to the Fire Department, Emergency Response Team, Search and Rescue and doaches to community teams. This decision isn't about saving a few dollars right now, it is about continuing to build a strong Oregon future. Please reconsider this decision.

Bruce Goetsch
Lake County Resident.

Subject: FW: Closure of Warner Creek Correctional Facility
Date: Tuesday, July 21, 2020 11:21:09 AM

From: havely6 <havely6@gmail.com>
Sent: Sunday, July 19, 2020 8:49 PM
To: Rep Owens <Rep.MarkOwens@oregonlegislature.gov>
Subject: Closure of Warner Creek Correctional Facility

Representative Owen's,

Lakeview is in desperate need of your help. If Warner Creek Correctional Facility were to close, it would be devastating to the community and to many families. We are asking for you to do whatever possible to stop this closure from happening.

For my family, we would be hit hard. Like many other employees at Warner Creek, both my husband and I are employed there so that would take away both of our incomes and it would take away our medical and retirement benefits. We have a son who will be a junior in high school so the thought of having to move him from the school, community, and friends he has had his entire life is unthinkable. He does very well in school and is an athlete so he has the opportunity to receive scholarships which are only given to Lake County/Lakeview High School students.

As far as losing our medical benefits would be life crippling for me. I have several autoimmune disorders and am dependent on biologic medications for me to literally function every day. If I cannot afford my medical care and medication, it would be horrible for me and my husband who would have to be the sole provider plus help care for me. I do not want to have to put this burden on him.

My husband has lived in Lakeview for over 40 years and I have been here for almost 20 years. The thought of having to start completely over is life shattering and not fair. There is so much more to account for with closing this facility than dollar signs. This would hurt families and the entire community.

So many of the current employees would have to move to find work elsewhere as there are not many options in Lakeview. With all of these families moving away, it would hurt the local businesses, schools, and the community overall.

I could go on and on about how this would be a negative impact both personally and professionally for so many in our community, but hopefully you are realizing what this would mean for us. Again, we are begging you to stand up for us and stop this from happening.

Please let me know if I can answer any questions for you.

Thank you for your time,

Cyndi Havely

Sent from my U.S.Cellular© Smartphone

Subject: FW: WCCF Closure
Date: Tuesday, July 21, 2020 11:19:00 AM

From: Vicki Figner <vickif955@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, July 20, 2020 9:21 AM
To: Rep Owens <Rep.MarkOwens@oregonlegislature.gov>
Subject: WCCF Closure

I am writing to voice my worry over the WCCF being closed in Lake County. WCCF is one of the largest employers in Lake County and as such it's closure would be very detrimental to our County. In my own family it would result in one family member being unemployed and possibly needing to relocate, which would in turn result in another business in Lakeview losing an employee. The people of Lake County have supported WCCF since it opened and I honestly feel the State of Oregon should let some people care for themselves instead of closing 2 prisons so they can hand services/ funds to people who just want handouts. I feel that there is enough waste in the Oregon government to cover the costs of whatever is needed. If you have questions please feel free to contact me.

Vicki VFeigner
541 947 3427
Lake County registered voter

Subject: Fwd: ALERT: Warner Creek Correctional Facility Closure
Date: Wednesday, July 22, 2020 11:02:33 AM

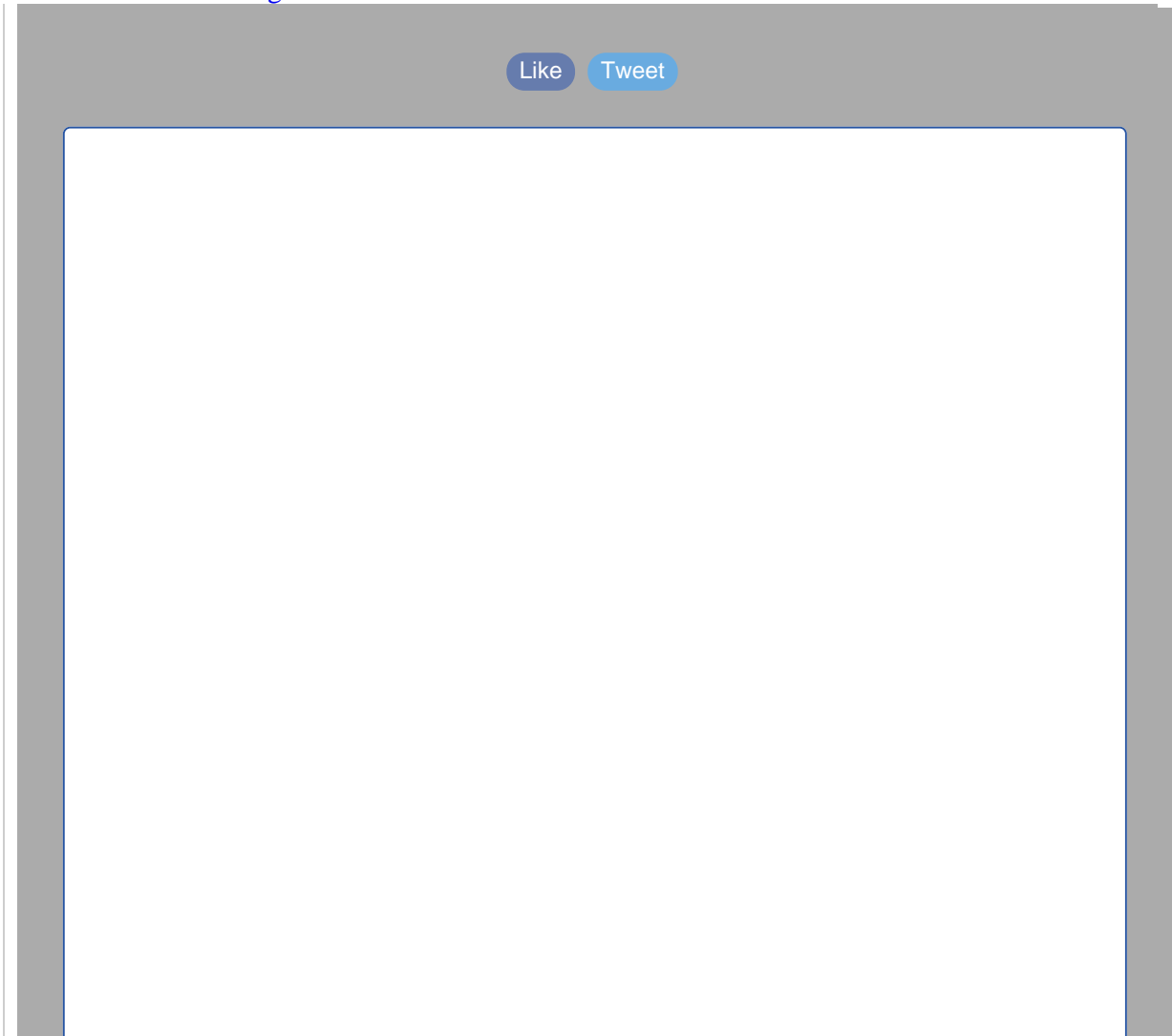
----- Forwarded message -----

From: Phillip Carey
Date: Wed, Jul 22, 2020, 10:54 AM
Subject: Re: ALERT: Warner Creek Correctional Facility Closure
To: E. Werner Reschke - Werner For Oregon <werner@wernerforegon.com>

Perhaps instead of closing Vital Facilities such as Warner Creek Correctional Facility. The Legislature & Governor's Salary's should be Cut. Afterall, Public Servants should be supported by donations from the people they represent. If you do a good job, maybe your constituents will be appreciative. And your fellow representatives can buy their own lunch too!

Sincerely
Phillip M. Carey-Concerned Oregon Citizen

On Tue, Jul 21, 2020, 7:56 PM E. Werner Reschke - Werner For Oregon <werner@wernerforegon.com> wrote:



Stand Together Now

Friends,

Many of you have heard that State Legislators are discussing whether to close Warner Creek Correction Facility next year in an effort to cut budgets.

If you think this is a bad idea, I encourage you to join me in writing the Joint Interim Ways & Means Committee on Public Safety, **which is meeting this Friday (7/24) at 9am** to give them your opinion.

The email address is

jwmps.exhibits@oregonlegislature.gov

Address your email to:

Honorable Co-Chair Senator Manning, Jr.

Honorable Co-Chair Representative Sollman

Honorable Members of the Joint Interim Ways & Means Committee on Public Safety

The notes for the meeting state:

“Closes Shutter Creek Correctional Institution; Warner Creek Correctional Facility remains open for the remainder of the current biennium but is anticipated to be closed during the 2021-23 biennium.”

If you are passionate in you plea, also be sure to be polite. Yelling at someone rarely changes their mind. Stay focused and be as concise as possible. Please state your name and the town in which you live. Also understand your email will be part of the public record, so only reveal information about yourself that you want made public.

Together we can make difference by encouraging legislators to look elsewhere in the state’s budget to save money.

Thank you,

E. WERNER RESCHKE

State Representative, Southern Klamath & Lake Counties.

Your LIBERTY First!

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Subject: Honorable Co-Chair Senator Manning jr, Honorable Co-chair Representative Sollman, Members of the Joint Interim Ways & Means Committee on Public Safety
Date: Thursday, July 23, 2020 12:59:29 PM

I am Linda Bennington and I live in Lakeview, Or. I am writing to ask you to vote to keep the Warner Creek Corrections Facility open. Lakeview us a very small town and the closure would devastate our businesses and possibly cause the closure of our town. Many people depend on their jobs including my daughter Cheryl Blevins who is an employee. I am a senior and depend on her for my care. My house is paid for here and we couldn't afford to live in another expensive area. I understand that there are older facilities in the Eugene/Salem area that could be closed and the employees absorbed into other close by facilities. Here we would have to move to make a living. We beseech you to consider our towns future before you vote. Thank you for your time and hopefully a positive outcome for our family and town.

Linda Bennington
88761 Drew's Gap Ln
Lakeview, Oregon. 97630



July 23, 2020

Ways and Means Public Safety Subcommittee
900 Court St NE, Room H-178
Salem, OR 97301

Dear Subcommittee Members:

Our organization provides supportive services to low-income individuals and households in Klamath and Lake Counties. Our mission is to strengthen our community one person at a time and we envision a community where every person has a voice and is valued.

I have been advised by our community partners in Lake County that the impact that the COVID-19 pandemic and subsequent response has had on the state economy has resulted in a proposal to close Warner Creek Correctional Facility after the end of the biennium. I am writing on behalf of our organization and its Board of Directors to advise that this facility employs 108 people and contributes \$13 million per year to the local economy. While we, and our community partners, understand the need to reduce expenditures in the state budget, we implore you to reconsider the closure of Warner Creek Correctional Facility at the end of the biennium.

The impact on Lake County as a result of this closure would be devastating in an area where employment opportunities are sparse. The 108 employees have 91 school-age children who would also be impacted by the closure. This would also have community-wide effects on small businesses who are currently struggling to remain open, many of them may not be able to sustain operations should Warner Creek Correctional Facility be closed.

Respectfully Submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Christina Zamora".

Christina Zamora
Executive Director



535 Market Street, Klamath Falls, OR 97601 541.882.3500 866.665.6438 541.882.3674 fax

KLCAS is committed to providing access, equal opportunity and reasonable accommodation in its services, programs, activities, education and employment for individuals with disabilities. To request disability accommodation contact the KLCAS office at 541-882-3500. Oregon Relay 711.

Subject: Proposed closure of the Warner Corrections facility
Date: Tuesday, July 21, 2020 8:02:12 PM

Honorable Co-Chair Senator Manning, Jr. Honorable Co-Chair Representative Sollman Honorable Members of the Joint Interim Ways & Means Committee on Public Safety

My name is James Overton and I was born and still live as a retired individual in Lakeview Oregon. I have seen many changes to this great little community. The good and the bad. One of the most dramatic and damaging changes I have witnessed is the loss of jobs. Once our resource-based economy had 5 sawmills and a vibrant ranching/farming base. Now there is one sawmill that is struggling to survive and farms often operate with small operating profits if any. With the Warner Creek facility opening it help stabilize our job base. The Warner facility is one of the largest employers in our County. The loss of this job base would be crippling. The loss of these critical jobs would will impact the school system, hospital, and county budgets in a disproportionate amount when you consider our small population base. A loss of 100 direct jobs and many more jobs that are ancillary cannot be made up. Our remote locale and lack of infrastructure limits growth opportunities. WE NEED THESE JOBS. We have all heard and seen hospitals close in rural communities when jobs go away. This is the only hospital in nearly 100 miles. Those 100 jobs support not only their families but our rural health care system. WE NEED THESE JOBS. Please look at the impact that the closure of the Warner Creek Correctional facility would have on this rural community which has little else to fall back on.

Thank you for the opportunity to share my concern.

Jim Overton



Subject: Warner Creek Correctional Facility - Lakeview, Oregon
Date: Tuesday, July 21, 2020 7:46:43 PM

Honorable Co-Chair Senator Manning, Jr.
Honorable Co-Chair Representative Sollman
Honorable Members of the Joint Interim Ways & Means Committee on Public Safety

My name is Angie Cozzalio Schneider, I have lived in Oregon most all of my 49 years, was born and raised in Lakeview, Oregon and my husband and I moved back to Lakeview in 2003 to raise our two daughters. Lakeview is a special place, if you have never visited here I highly recommend it. We have access to so many outdoor activities within our large county and the High Desert scenery, wide open spaces and dark skies just can't be beat!

I am writing to you because of the unsettling news that came out this week of the possible closure of Warner Creek Correctional Facility in Lakeview, Oregon. This will affect me personally because my husband is the Food Services Manager at the facility, he loves his job, we do not want to move away as my parents and other family still live here and our daughter is still in high school. I also must mention the amazing college scholarships that are awarded to our county youth for attending all four years of high school here!

But my family is not the only one that will suffer from the closure of WCCF:

- The loss of jobs at WCCF would be 108
- These families make up 14% of our small town population
- Their children make up 6% of Lake County School District and 17% of the Paisley School District (just 44 miles away)
- The loss of funding for our schools would be more than \$400,000 per year
- These numbers do not include the more than 40 children from these families that will start school in the next few years...will that result in a loss of teachers or support staff???
- WCCF employees own over 60 homes in the community, imagine what that will do to the housing market, they will most certainly take a loss if in fact their homes sell
- WCCF employees occupy more than 20 rental houses
- The loss of jobs/population would reduce revenue for not only the school, but also the hospital and every other small and big business in Lakeview and has the potential of causing reduction of workforce in those businesses as well. As an example, one business in town reported that the employees of WCCF make up approximately 1/3 of their business!!!!
- WCCF employees not only work in our community but they coach and volunteer for our kids' sports and other events, lead 4H and FFA clubs where their children are members, they volunteer countless hours as members of search and rescue, EMT and fire dispatch, church events, service clubs - Rotary, Lions, Elks, the senior center. They also contribute financially to countless fundraisers.
- WCCF spouses are teachers and nurses, their children are in AYSO, dance, Little League, high school sports and activities, middle and elementary school sports and activities.
- WCCF Christmas party is a huge boost to the local economy
- WCCF employees and their families support our small businesses with snacks that they buy at the convenience stores, coffee on the way to work, lunches and dinners at restaurants, oil changes, home improvement at the locally owned hardware store, buying cars at our locally owned car dealership, prescriptions at our locally owned pharmacy, this list goes on and on...

- WCCF uses geothermal heat, that's local! They have a wonderful greenhouse and vegetable garden. They grow native plants like bitterbrush for some state and federal agencies. The AICs also work alongside other crews to plant those plants, fight forest fires, cut wood and shovel snow for seniors and others in need.

As you can see, our small community and county would be absolutely DEVASTATED if Warner Creek Correctional Facility were to close. Our community is already suffering because of the effects of COVID-19 closures and restrictions, please consider ALL of us in your decision and keep Warner Creek Correctional Facility open for business. The last thing we need is another closure!

Sincerely,
Angie Cozzalio Schneider
727 South I Street
Lakeview OR 97630
541-219-2442

Subject: Warner Creek Correctional Facility ("WCCF")
Date: Thursday, July 23, 2020 4:23:16 PM
Attachments:

July 23, 2020

Honorable Co-Chair Senator Manning, Jr.
Honorable Co-Chair Representative Sollman
Honorable Members of the Joint Interim Ways & Means Committee on Public Safety

Ladies and Gentlemen:

I write today to ask for your support for the Warner Creek Correctional Facility ("WCCF") in Lakeview, Oregon.

My wife and I are small business owners and residents of Lakeview. Our family moved here three years ago when we purchased a small manufacturing company founded here in 2000. Our business has expanded significantly since our purchase. We have doubled our manufacturing space (with the help and support of our County Commissioners) and we are proud to have also doubled the size of our team. Most recently we have designed a new product in response to the COVID-19 pandemic.

I understand that the State of Oregon is experiencing budget shortfalls as a result of the pandemic. We all are. That being the case, of course it makes sense to revisit expenditures and to make cuts, all of them painful. But I hope you will reconsider a proposal to close the WCCF in the next biennium, for the following reasons:

1. Lake County is a small and conservative community in a remote area of our state. Many of us actually prefer the quiet beauty here over the frenzy of the I-5 communities. We have a ranching/farming culture and focus and there is modest tourism, retail and manufacturing investment – ours included. But for our community, employment at and expenditure by government agencies are the difference between our modest success and economic/social disaster. The data shows that the majority of our jobs are with government agencies: our school district, the BLM and US Forest Service teams; Lake District Hospital and of course the WCCF. Lakeview itself has about 685 families, of which WCCF employs about 110. If WCCF were to close, its employees and their families would, as civil servants, very likely move to continue their careers at other state facilities. But losing their payroll, their trade at our markets and their students in our schools would truly be a disaster in Lake County. Plus, the WCCF leadership are community leaders outside the prison as well as our friends and neighbors.
2. I'm certainly not an expert in the administration of correctional institutions, but if there is a 'model prison' I'm guessing that WCCF would qualify. I was lucky enough to tour WCCF when we first moved to Lakeview. It is impressive. First, it is new, perhaps the newest of all Oregon Department of Corrections' facilities. It is clean and seems to have been well-designed for its purpose. It is a low-security facility so it is a calm place. The staff are impressive. I'm told that the prison design takes advantage of Lake County's

abundant geothermal resources, such that the prison is completely heated during our brutal winters without using electricity or fossil fuel heat. WCCF proudly display their many design awards as you approach the visitor's entrance.

3. As a taxpayer and as a business owner I'm all about economic efficiency. I've read that the state needs to cut approximately \$1 billion from its budget as a result of declining tax and other revenues during the pandemic. On the other hand, I also understand the average annual expenditure for WCCF is about \$26 million. Put simply, closing WCCF would not really move the needle. You have to start somewhere, clearly, but I have to think that within the entire Department of Corrections budget there are cuts that would make a bigger mark and more sense than shuttering WCCF.
4. Finally, closing WCCF would send the wrong signal. Taxpayers pay attention to the actions of their elected officials. Closing the state's newest, and arguably most-impressive correctional facility will make no sense to folks whose taxes fund government operations. It would be an admission of error, of failure, or a hint at punishment, none of which seem right as we are all trying to do our best during admittedly difficult times.

For these reasons I respectfully request the Committee's positive consideration of and support for the Warner Creek Correctional Facility.

Your sincerely,

Michael McGowen
President
GK Soundbooth, Inc.
1350 South M Street
Lakeview, OR 97630
(541) 947-2602 x200



Subject: Warner Creek Correctional Facility (WCCF)
Date: Thursday, July 23, 2020 2:37:37 PM

Honorable Co-Chair Senator Manning
Honorable Co-Chair Representative Sollman
Honorable Members of the Joint Interim Ways & Means Committee on Public Safety

My name is Jayson “Jake” Greer, and I am the Director of Lake County Community Justice, Adult and Juvenile Probation. I also serve as Chairperson for the WCCF Prison Advisory Council (PAC) and as the Lake County Local Public Safety Coordinating Council Chair.

Having served in various capacities within Community Corrections for over 26 years, I’ve seen my share of Corrections Reforms and Prison openings. However, outside of the old Mill Creek Farm Annex going away while a young lad, I’ve yet to see a prison closure. But yet, here are facing not one, but two prison closures within Oregon.

Don’t get me wrong, I understand budget constraints and difficult decisions need to be made. However, is closing WCCF truly in the best interest of the State of Oregon and the Oregon Department of Corrections? I ask that question because...not only is WCCF a newer institution, a major staple within the Lake County Community, but an Institution who by and large remains within their allotted budget each year. WCCF is one of the newest prisons built in Oregon coming in at almost 15 years old and it employs roughly 109 Lake County residents. While this may or not be a factor in the decision to shutdown WCCF, the long lasting effects and costs of having a closed prison sitting in the middle of the desert potentially becoming a decrepit eyesore isn’t what taxpayers nor what Lake County deserves.

Additionally, this facility is most notable for its energy efficient design that utilizes geothermal energy to provide hot water and heat to the prison saving the taxpayers thousands of dollars each year. The true cost of savings per year is at or about \$300,000.00 per year. Certainly there is a cost of doing daily business such as transports to WCCF and from WCCF, however, that’s a cost of doing business and was surely figured in the equation when Lakeview was sighted as a prison placement.

On top of the above information, WCCF serves our community in many capacities. Select Adults In Custody (AIC) at Warner Creek Correctional Facility are allowed to work on fire crews, and provide labor for surrounding agencies. WCCF and Lake County Community Justice partnered with the local saw mill, who donates logs for our firewood program. The AIC’s cut the logs into rounds and return to WCCF, where they then split and stack the wood. Lake County Community Justice then retrieves the wood and delivers it to folks identified through the Lake County Energy Assistance Program, Lake County Senior Center, and the Lake County Veterans Office. An estimated 270 cord of firewood is delivered each year, at no cost to the recipients. WCCF surely serves a greater purpose in our community than just being a prison.

So with all the above said, another question I ask is why WCCF and not Mill Creek/Santiam in the

Salem area. I know Mill Creek is an much older institution and I know Santiam was built in 1946, although not constructed as a prison at first. With the age of institutions comes repairs and those can't and don't come cheap. Whereas, WCCF is a newer Institution where maintenance costs are much lower. So the bigger questions is "Why us (WCCF) and not them (SCI/MCCF)?"

In my last 8 years here in Lake County, I've seen the bucking trend of West vs. East. What happens on the Westside is far more important than what happens on the Eastside. This isn't just a belief, it's a fact. Eastern Oregon, the rural and frontier portion of the State of Oregon, has been notoriously left behind for the greater and bigger calling of the Willamette Valley. So shutting down an institution within a rural community couldn't possibly be that big of deal...but it is a bigger deal when it not only affects the DOC Employees at WCCF, but it affects the local economics, schools districts, the Town of Lakeview and Lake County as a whole.

With the closure of WCCF and Shutter Creek, the Southwest Region of Community Corrections is left without a releasing institution. Which means, when AIC's are released from there sentence, they will be bussed to Klamath County and then will need to find a ride to Lake County, which doesn't allow for a smooth transition from Prison to the Community. With DOC having moved to a "Normalized" Institution setting and where we are trying to minimize disruptions for the AOC's so when they transitioned back into our communities, they have a sense of normalcy. There's absolutely nothing normal about having AIC's reduce their visits from their family based on a prison being shutdown.

In summary, I'm asking You, the Interim Joint Ways and Means Committee on Public Safety, to reconsider shutting down WCCF and seek other means to reduce the budget and cover the gap.

Regards-

Jayson "Jake" Greer, Director
Lake County Community Justice
Adult & Juvenile Probation
541.947.6056 ext. 4

Subject: Warner Creek Correctional Facility
Date: Tuesday, July 21, 2020 8:51:47 PM

Honorable Co-Chair Senator Manning Jr., Honorable Co-Chair Representative Sollman, Honorable Members of the Joint Interim Ways and Means Committee on Public Safety, Greetings from Southern Oregon! We are often an unheard voice way down here in the southern region of our beautiful state and do not always feel that our voices are represented in the political world. So thank you for graciously allowing me to express some thoughts and ideas about the possible closure of the Warner Creek Correctional Facility in Lakeview, Oregon.

To understand the impact of it's potential closure, one must first understand the community where it is situated.

I have lived in Lakeview for over 20 years. We moved here to slow down from the rat race of larger cities and raise a family with the comforts of small town living. We are a small community. While Lake County itself is roughly the size of New Jersey, our numbers are much lower

Lakeview itself had already shrunk to it's current size prior to my family arriving. What once had been a thriving lumbermill town, a sheepherder's paradise, and beef rancher's delight, had dwindled down with lumber mills being closed down and sheep no longer in demand. Government jobs, ranching, and hospital jobs were the bulk of employment. Then the Warner Creek Correctional facility came in.

It offered employment opportunities and the growth of new families of corrections officers.

It has helped Lakeview maintain and improve its sustainability. We are a single grocery store town. We have very little to offer by way of entertainment, and variety in shopping, but we love our little town. The impact of job loss, with the proposed closure of WCCF will put the proverbial nail in the our community's coffin and be devastating to our county.

Thank you for your time.

Sincerely, Heather Eversole

Lakeview, Oregon

Subject: Warner Creek Correctional Facility
Date: Tuesday, July 21, 2020 9:22:01 PM

Dear Honorable Co-Chair Senator Manning, Jr. Honorable Co-Chair Representative Sollman Honorable Members of the Joint Interim Ways & Means Committee on Public Safety,

Concerning the closure of Warner Creek Correctional Facility I implore you to consider alternatives to this facility closure as a means to realize a balanced budget. Lakeview, where the facility resides, is a very small, close-knit community and this facility has been a major source of income for its citizens. We can all appreciate the need for fiscal responsibility during these trying times, but the closing of this facility would have a devastating impact on the entire community. Not just the staff at the facility that depend on it for their income but also the local businesses that depend on their patronage, local charities that depend on their support, schools where their children have developed close friendships, much of this would come to an end with the closing of this facility. So again, I urge you to please reconsider the closing of WCCF, thank you for your time.

Best regards,
Officer J. Bacon.

Subject: Warner Creek Correctional Facility
Date: Thursday, July 23, 2020 2:30:34 PM

To: Honorable Co-Chair Senator Manning, Jr. Honorable Co-Chair Representative Sollman Honorable Members of the Joint Interim Ways & Means Committee on Public Safety

I will be brief as I know you have already received information regarding the financial impact that closing Warner Creek Correctional Facility would have on our small town. I also know that you have information on how financially efficient and environmentally friendly WCCF is run. I am writing to speak to the personal impact closing WCCF would have. Many of my close friends are WCCF employees or spouses of employees. I teach their children. These are hard working, productive members of our community. Our community is small and losing all of the workers and family members would be devastating to us.

I humbly ask that you please think about how much closing WCCF would negatively impact our community. We don't have other places where these employees can find new jobs here. They would have to relocate and take with them their families that are health care workers, teachers, etc. We will lose so much.

Respectfully,
Casey Thames
Lakeview, OR



Subject: Warner Creek Correctional Facility
Date: Thursday, July 23, 2020 8:23:04 PM

Honorable Co-Chair Senator Manning, Jr
Honorable Co-Chair Representative Sollman
Honorable Members of the Joint Interim Ways & Means Committee on Public Safety,

I am writing to you in hopes that I have a voice in the decision regarding the closure of Warner Creek Correctional Facility. I am not an employee at the prison, but I live and work in Lake County. A closure to one of the major employers in this county would be devastating and possibly the end of Lakeview as I know it. I have lived here only 3 years, and it is a beautiful area; remote and wild. It is a little known region of Oregon, and seems to be forgotten by most who live in the densely populated areas of the state. In particular, the people who live here feel very under-represented. Our way of life is definitely at risk.

Why close a large employer in such a fragile rural area? Closing a facility in a larger city makes more sense. The employees have a much better chance at finding a job without relocating. All the employees at Warner creek would have to relocate, probably never to return. Their children represent up to 1/3 of each graduating class at the one and only high school in the town of Lakeview. The flood of homes for sale would be a devastating loss for the homeowners. The loss of property tax income would devastate the county and schools. This town is already so economically depressed, please do not sign the letter that will cause the demise of this beautiful town.

With earnest I beg you to reconsider and find a different option for balancing the budget for 2021-2023. To shutter a town when there could be any other solution is cruel.

Thank you for your time,

Heather Garton

Subject: Warner Creek Correctional Facility Closure
Date: Thursday, July 23, 2020 7:03:40 AM

To the Honorable Co-Chair Senator Manning, Jr. Honorable Co-Chair Representative Sollman
Honorable Members of the Joint Interim Ways & Means Committee on Public Safety:

Please reconsider your plans to close our local Correctional Facility.

I have been a member of the greater Lakeview area for nearly 25 years and during that time have seen this facility offer great stability and jobs for various wage and skill levels for our county. We struggle to retain both skilled professionals and our younger members in this small community. Many of the employees of Warner Creek have purchased houses, brought in spouses to work in other hard to fill positions in the community, joined our school and other volunteer boards and raised families here.

Closing Warner Creek would virtually rip apart the fabric that holds us together and have a devastating effect on many other businesses including our housing market. We are continually working as a county to bring in stabilizing industries and jobs to keep Lake County alive.

Warner Creek helps us continue to do this.

As the Director of Nursing at our local hospital, I know how that the care of inmates contributes to our positive bottom line and that Klamath Community College utilizes it as a site for RN Clinical training. As you probably know training and developing new graduate nurses to work in rural areas is critical to the medical care of our rural residents. In addition as a medical facility we work in partnership with Warner Creek Correctional Facility to meet Emergency Preparedness needs. They stand ready to assist us in everything from laundry processing to food preparation and staff support. All of these positive effects for our medical community would be lost or adversely affected if we close Warner Creek.

In a more populated county, closing a facility of this size may have a lesser impact, but in Lake it will be devastating. Please find another way to provide school funding.

Thank you,
Teresa Coops Squires

Subject: Warner Creek Correctional Facility closure
Date: Tuesday, July 21, 2020 8:17:06 PM

To Joint Interim Ways and Means Committee

Please don't close this facility down. We are a poor and rural community here in Lakeview Oregon. Closing this facility takes away several living wage positions for several citizens of Lake County. We don't have much here, our community has no industry and much of the employment comes from government jobs.

Our local economy has already been devastated by the government lock downs. Closing down the Warner Creek Correctional Facility would very hard on our small and vulnerable community.

If you have and sense of compassion and concern please reconsider this closure.

I appreciate you taking the time to read this email and taking this into consideration.

Thank you,

Steven Vance

Subject: Warner Creek Correctional Facility in Lakeview
Date: Tuesday, July 21, 2020 4:22:52 PM

Please find another way to balance the budget in the public safety sector, instead of closing the Warner Creek Correctional Facility in Lakeview. The loss of this facility would be devastating to the economy of Lakeview. In addition, closing a newer facility that is more economical to operate does not make good fiscal sense..

Do not balance the budget on the backs of those communities who are dependent upon the facility's jobs to keep their struggling economy afloat.

Make budget decisions based on their overall effect to the community.

Thank you,
Beth Spell
Candidate for HOuse of Representative District 60.

Subject: Warner Creek Correctional Facility
Date: Tuesday, July 21, 2020 8:06:55 PM

To the Honorable Co-Chair Senator Manning, Jr., Honorable Co-Chair Representative Sollman, Honorable Members of the Joint Interim Ways & Means Committee on Public Safety,

I am writing to voice my concern about the proposed closure of the Warner Creek Correctional facility. I have multiple concerns about the proposed closure and its effects on Lakeview and Lake County.

If Warner Creek was to close, it would be financially devastating for Lake County. There would be a loss of 108 jobs, approximately 14% of Lakeview residents. There are not jobs locally for these employees if you decide to eliminate their employer. The unemployment system in Oregon is already overwhelmed to the point that many unemployed Oregonians are not getting their benefits. Now is not the time to eliminate more jobs.

Lake County Schools would lose over \$400,000 a year. Children of Warner Creek Corrections employees make up 6% of the Lakeview School population and 17% of the Paisley school population. There are more than 40 preschool age children of Warner Creek Corrections employees that should be starting school in the next few years.

The Lake County Housing market would be severely impacted. Warner Creek Correctional employees own more than 60 homes and occupy more than 20 rental homes in Lake County. In addition to losing jobs, they would also have difficulty selling their homes and would overwhelm Lake Counties market causing real estate prices to dive.

Our community has already been financially impacted by the Covid restrictions. We have lost several businesses since the restrictions

started. The loss of Warner Creek Corrections employees financial contribution to our business would add to this devastation and likely cause more businesses to close.

Please do the right thing for Lake County, do not close Warner Creek Correctional Facility!

Thank you,

Kelli Vance

Subject: WCCF closure
Date: Wednesday, July 22, 2020 7:19:12 AM

Dear

Honorable Co-Chair Senator Manning, Jr. Honorable Co-Chair Representative Sollman Honorable Members of the Joint Interim Ways & Means Committee on Public Safety

I am writing to voice my concern over the closure of the Warner Creek Correctional Facility. We moved to the small town many years ago and have watched this small town fight to stay alive in hard times. We are only about 2,800 residents to lose 108 jobs would be devastating. The next larger town is 90 miles away so they can't go to the next community to find a job. They will have to leave their family and friends, pull their children away from their friends and schools to find work so they don't lose the homes they own. All the businesses, Hospital and schools who have already been hit by covid-19 will suffer even more. This is one of the newer facilities in the state. Please vote NO on closing WCCF.

Linda Conroy

honkerrealty3@gmail.com

541-417-0741

Subject: WCCF letter
Date: Wednesday, July 22, 2020 9:25:13 PM

Honorable Co-Chair Senator Manning, Jr.

Honorable Co-Chair Representative Sollman

Honorable Members of the Joint Interim Ways & Means Committee on Public Safety"

Dear Sirs:

I am writing asking you to reconsider closing Warner Creek Correctional Facility in Lakeview. WCCF has 108 employees , 1 of which is a family member of mine. She and her husband live in Lakeview, have a small ranching operation. If the WCCF were to close she would be unemployed and most likely unable to find a job which would mean they would need to leave their home. There are about 93 children of WCCF employees attending schools in Lake COunty, to lose that many students would be devastating to our schools,

When WCCF was built the citizens of Lake County were very leery of the prison being built here. Since that time the Citizens have rallied and supported the WCCF. I am asking that the decision makers in Salem think of the consequences to this county before deciding to close WCCF. I honestly believe it is time the lawmakers in Salem think of the citizens of Oregon who are trying very hard to make a life on their own, and stop pouring money into the hands of those who do not want to help themselves only want someone to take care of them.

Vicki Feigner
Lakeview/Lake County
541 947-3427



Lake County Fairgrounds
1900 North 4th Street
Lakeview, OR 97630
P: 541/947-2925
fairgrounds@co.lake.or.us

July 20, 2020

Honorable Members of the Joint Interim Ways & Means committee on Public Safety
Via email: jwmps@oregonlegislature.gov

On behalf of the Lake County Fair Board, and myself I am writing this letter of support for the Warner Creek Correctional Facility located in Lakeview, OR.

Over the past several years, the Fairgrounds have utilized the inmate work crews for numerous projects, such as: demolition of horse stalls in barn, helped with construction of new restrooms/showers, refinishing/repair of 3000 seat grandstands and numerous uncountable hours doing ground maintenance and preparation for the annual Fair & RoundUp!!

The crews help was invaluable in cases. The work would have taken 7 times longer and if we would have had to pay 'retail' labor expenses, we could not have afforded what has been accomplished.

The crew is always respectful and comes to do the work. We have benefited by the skillsets and knowledge of the inmates. Each project has been completed in a good workmanship manner.

The fairground works within a small budget, so the availability of the WCCF crews has been something we do not take for granted and appreciate very much.

If you should have any questions, please feel free to contact me.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Ronne Lindsay".

Ronne Lindsay
Manager, Lake Co Fairgrounds



**Lake District Wellness Center
35 North G Street
Lakeview, OR 97630**

To Whom It May Concern;

July 22, 2020

I am writing to you regarding the Warner Creek Correctional facility. My understanding is that the facility employs 108 people, it contributes approximately \$13 million a year to Lake County's economy, and there would be a hardship to the community if the Warner Creek Correctional were to close. Not only would the closure of the correctional facility create a harsh economic impact as well as generate a cascade of possible unforeseen effects, to the community. For instance, I am concerned for the behavioral health of these families in mental health stability, possible substance abuse, and other domestic concerns for those who would stay in the area. This could produce additional needs and overutilize the limited resources that are available in Lake County. I am requesting detailed consideration of unexpected consequences that would develop from the decision to close Warner Creek Correctional facility for Lake County. If you have any questions regarding this letter, please feel free to contact me at 541-947-6021.

Harmony,

Dr. Trace Wonser, QMHP-C

Executive Director

Lake District Wellness Center

Phone: 541-947-6021

Fax: 541-219-8114

Lake Health District is an equal opportunity employer and provider

To whom it may concern:

As a citizen of Lake County for the last 52 years, and a business owner I would like to say that I was not absolutely happy when the subject of the prison being built in Lake County first came up, but I was convinced by the state, our community leaders and local government that it was a good idea. So, we have the prison it has been here long enough to be a part of the community and all 110+ people who work there are a part of our community!

Our County cannot take a hit like this. Most of the employees would be forced to relocate, taking their families with them. This means losing many community volunteers, kids in youth programs and school, integral employees at local businesses, frequent customers, and community support in general.

We depend on the whole package and we need them to continue to be here. And I believe if your going to make a decision that can affect us in such a major way you should really listen to the citizens of Lake County and pay attention to what is really going on in this state. It would be devastating to our community and our county to let this prison be closed.

As I understand the situation, there are prisons around the state that are older and in much worse shape than Warner Creek so maybe, if you must close a prison, look at some of those older ones.

We would appreciate your help in keeping Warner Creek Correctional facility open.

Thank you

Tonya Mobley
100 Foothill Drive
Lakeview OR 97630



Lake County Sheriff's Office

Lake County Sheriff's Office
Lake County Courthouse
513 Center Street
Lakeview, OR 97630
(541) 947-6027

Michael Taylor, Sheriff

July 21, 2020

Honorable Co-Chair Senator Manning, Jr.

Honorable Co-Chair Representative Sollman

Honorable Members of the Joint Interim Ways & Means Committee on Public Safety

Dear Honorable Ways and Means Committee:

The Lake County Sheriff's Office is one of many entities that has substantial concerns regarding the closure of the Warner Creek Correctional Facility. On September 27, 2005, Lake County entered into an intergovernmental agreement, No. 3346 with Warner Creek Correctional Facility. This agreement provides essential meal services to the Lake County Jail. This specific agreement facilitated full compliance between the Lake County Sheriff's Office Correctional Facility and the Oregon State Sheriff's Association Jail Standards. The agreement provided a dietician approved meal plan providing adequate nourishment for Lake County's inmates. It also provided meals that are in compliance with medical and religious requirements and assists Lake County's compliance for mandated Public Health sanitation and safety standards.

On exceptional occasions the Lake County Sheriff's Office has expedited emergent transport of inmates from the Warner Creek Correctional Facility and the Oregon Department of Corrections institutions for Lake County Circuit Court hearings with minimal notice.

The communities of Lake County have benefited from the Warner Creek Correctional Facility in many supplementary ways that aren't directly related to the Lake County Sheriff's Office. These include community support for disabled individuals, veterans and elderly. Services include snow removal from driveways and sidewalks. Providing cut and split firewood for the indigent and elderly citizens of Lake County, many of which would go without sufficient heat in the winter months. In addition, Lake County has

Lake County Sheriff's Office

purchased work crews providing essential clean-up at the Lake County Fairgrounds, and other county properties. Inmates of the Warner Creek Correctional Facility have participated in work and clean up efforts with Lake County's Search & Rescue.

The functions provided by the inmates of Warner Creek Correctional Facility are not only needed by the communities of Lake County, they are essential. Please consider these concerns before making your decision in closing the Warner Creek Correctional Facility. Your decision doesn't simply affect a budgetary need for the State of Oregon; it affects the heartbeat of a dying community.

Michael Taylor
Sheriff, Lake County





Town of Lakeview

525 North 1st Street - Lakeview, Oregon 97630

Honorable
Co-Chair Senator James Manning, Jr.;
Co-Chair Janeene Sollman;
and Members of the Interim Joint Committee on Public Safety
900 Court Street NE, S-205, Salem, Oregon 97301

July 20, 2020

Dear Senator, Co-Chair and Members of the Interim Joint Committee on Public Safety,

On behalf of the Town of Lakeview, I am writing to respectfully urge you to support keeping Warner Creek Correctional Facility open and operational.

Warner Creek is vital to Lakeview's economy and the stability of the people who are employed at the facility. It's no secret, the global pandemic has been like watching a massive, monstrous upheaval. The disease itself can be horrifically damaging, even for those who survive it. Sheltering in place has created more unemployment than the Great Depression. Almost a third of a million people have lost family members. All of us have lost the familiar rhythms of activity that once filled our time and lifted our spirits.

Blow after blow, the punches just keep coming.

Pondering all this, I recently did something I've never done before: I watched the famous 1974 boxing match between Muhammed Ali and George Foreman. Ali entered that legendary fight a 4-to-1 underdog against the younger, stronger Foreman. He spent eight rounds backed against the ropes, absorbing sledgehammer blows. Many feared Ali might actually be killed. Then, with 30 seconds left in the eighth round, Ali roared back and delivered a flurry of punches leaving Foreman on the canvas.

Ali didn't win with sheer physical power. He didn't dominate effortlessly. He had to call upon a different kind of strength, a quality that could help him win against steep odds: **resilience**.

How does this relate to Warner Creek? We have to let ourselves absorb Covid-19 forces, then rebound in a way that uses them to our advantage. Facing any overwhelming opponent (like a heavyweight fighter or Covid-19) is a time we can and must increase our own powers of resilience.

I believe, we can with clear-eyed awareness keep Warner Creek open. You can and must match Covid-19's force with sheer determination and strength. The fact is, a tiny virus has exposed our vulnerabilities and weaknesses-however, isn't that necessary to create our foundation for resilience?

I have no reservations you will creatively find a way to keep us, Warner Creek and The Town of Lakeview operational, stable, safe and irrevocably push back the tiny virus called coronavirus. It will make us all more resilient.

Thank you in advance for your time,

Michele Parry, Town Manager, Town of Lakeview,
525 North 1st Street, Lakeview, Oregon 97630
(541) 947-2029

July 23, 2020

Honorable Co-Chair Senator Manning, Jr.

Honorable Co-Chair Representative Sollman

Honorable Members of the Joint Interim Ways & Means Committee on Public Safety

As not only citizens of Oregon but also State of Oregon employees, we understand as much or more than anyone else that the State of Oregon as well as the nation is in an economic crisis; we are all suffering along with the rest of the nation. We are representing the employees of Warner Creek Correctional Facility and the community of Lake County where we live. We as a community and family have been working tirelessly to gather as many facts as we can to explain the impact that closing our facility will have on the employees, the Adults in Custody and the community of Lake County. As frontline workers we understand that hard decisions must be made. We understand that you must make the decisions that no one wants to have to make; but with that being said, we assure you that when you are done hearing what we have to say, you will see that closing Warner Creek cannot be an option.

Warner Creek Correctional Facility is located in Lakeview. It is a town of 2313 people in South Eastern Oregon that was built around the timber and cattle industry. Once a booming town, we have struggled since many of the mills have closed. Many of the natives to the area own land and run cattle or hay. As you can imagine, Warner Creek is one of the largest employers in the county. Lakeview has one hospital, one grocery store, one post office and one hardware store. In 2019 the median income in Lake County was \$36,627 with 18.3% of the residents already living below the poverty level (<https://www.census.gov/quickfacts/lakecountyoregon>). Warner Creek Correctional Facility alone employs 108 community members. That may not seem like a lot to you but our 108 employees and their families calculate to about 278 people, or 12% of Lakeview's population. But it's not just any 12% you see, it's some of the higher income families in the community, all of which contribute to the local economy, and some also own local businesses. In comparison, that would be almost 21,000 people moving out of Salem or almost 42,000 people moving out of Marion County. Imagine the loss to the businesses, the hospital and schools of Lake County when you pull that higher earning 12% out the community.

Our employees contribute not only financially to the community, but also contribute to the success of many programs in Lake County that depend on volunteers to operate. Our employees are members of the volunteer fire department, the volunteer ambulance service, and search and rescue. These people are soccer coaches, little league coaches, 4-H leaders, dance leaders, faith-based youth program leaders, as well as volunteer for every middle school and high school sport in between. We have staff that are foster parents, we have staff that house foreign exchange students. Our staff are very generous donators to the local charities, schools, food bank, and 4-H programs. Warner Creek staff are exceptionally involved in our community.

Warner Creek's employees are like family. That family consists of over 80 children that currently attend the local schools or will be school bound shortly. That's over 10% of Lakeview's roster. With the closure of Warner Creek, that would cause an enormous shortfall to the local school district. That is huge. Removing 10% of the students and associated funding could result in job loss within the school district. Just 44 miles away is a town called Paisley, Oregon. Paisley is a small town outside of Lakeview with a population of 240 people. Warner Creek Correctional Facility employs three staff from Paisley that commute to Warner Creek every day. Of those 3 families, they have 9 children attending the local

charter school. The closure of Warner Creek would require all 3 of those families to relocate or become unemployed, potentially pulling those children, and cutting the school of \$76,500. Again, it may not look like a lot, but with a roster of 52 children at the K-12 Paisley School; that's 17% of their roster gone and that would likely force the school to close completely. Surely closing a prison to fund the schools, yet potentially closing one down is not the intent here.

In addition to the jobs directly lost with the closure of Warner Creek Correctional Facility, additional jobs will likely be lost as a result. According to the State of Oregon Employment Department the Warner Creek Correctional Facility also supports an additional 101 jobs within the community, many if not all of those jobs could also be lost. The loss of those 108 employees at Warner Creek Correctional Facility would have a trickle down affect within the community.

We know that facts speak, and that is exactly what we are bringing you. Let's not forget that Warner Creek Correctional Facility is the second newest facility built, opening in 2005. Currently, it is also the most efficient to operate with its geothermal heating, reducing the cost of heating and hot water. The cost of geothermal heating, paid to the Town of Lakeview is just \$52,000 per year, revenue the town depends on to offset the expense of the installation of geothermal equipment specifically for the institution. If we had to heat solely with propane, the cost would be approximately \$348,000 a year; **that is a savings to the State of Oregon of up to \$296,000 every year.** We also have reduced the electric usage by \$3,000 a month just by switching to LED lighting throughout the entire facility; **an additional savings to the State of Oregon of \$36,000 every year.** Warner Creek Correctional Facility also received the State Energy Efficiency Design award in May 2008 for its progress in design efficiency. We have done more than our fair share at keeping DOC's costs as low as we possibly can. We are willing to put our numbers up to any other facility. **As elected officials, you are stewards of the tax payers dollars, do you think closing one of the newest and most efficient DOC facilities is good stewardship?**

Lake County Jail has contracted with Warner Creek Correctional Facility to provide 3 meals a day for those housed in the jail at cost of \$1.70 per meal. For the biennium it is not to exceed 62K. Last month alone we billed them for over 1000 meals, and that money gets put right back into the general fund for meals. The Lake County Jail is not set up to provide meals for AIC's housed at their location, without Warner Creek, they would be forced to contract elsewhere. Prior to this contract, they were forced to utilize a local restaurant at a higher cost, returning to that practice would also cause a financial hardship to our county government. The ripple affect of a closure will be felt all over.

Warner Creek Correctional Facility also supports the community of Lake County and the State of Oregon in other ways. Our institution, through AIC labor, provides wild land firefighting for the State of Oregon. We provide repairs and clean up in several state parks which further reduces the costs to those state agencies. We provide snow shoveling for seniors in the winter, as well as road clean-up to keep the community looking its very best. We contract with the Lake District Hospital to provide grounds maintenance. Warner Creek Correctional Facility partners with the local mill, Collins Pine, to provide wood for low income seniors and disabled through Lake County Community Corrections. Through these programs, we are providing a much needed service; we are also teaching the adults in our custody to be productive and contributing members of society and help those less fortunate.

The enormous financial affect of the closure of Warner Creek Correctional Facility will be felt by the citizens, businesses and local governments of Lakeview and Lake County through the loss of jobs within our community, but this decision could also affect your community. Closing two of state's correctional facilities will result in almost 800 AIC's needing to be housed at other facilities, increasing their populations beyond designed capacity. Someday, hopefully soon, the State of Oregon and the nation will return to normal. When that happens, will there be individuals currently awaiting trial who

will be sentenced to prison? Will ODOC's AIC population increase as a result? If that does happen, where will we house them? Perhaps there will be a need for early release? If this does happen, those individuals will be released into my community as well as yours without fully paying their debt to society and maximizing their potential for rehabilitation.

There are employees within ODOC that are looking to retire within the next year to two years. In lieu of closing facilities, has it even been considered to let those staff members that choose to do so, to retire early with a severance package and their PERS? This would save ODOC a substantial amount of money, by lowering the amount of top salary range employees. Has an assessment been done on all facilities, the cost of operations, maintenance, necessary upgrades and the impact on the surrounding communities? Another alternative idea would be to postpone some of the 2021-2024 road improvement projects within the state. The HB 2017 projects alone totals \$686,580,261; postponement of just some of these enhancement projects would reduce the budget more than closing two prisons. (<https://www.oregon.gov/ODOT/STIP/Documents/2021-2024-STIP-Allocations-Framework.pdf>) Do the roads really take priority over the employment of front line state employees and the financial stability of an entire Oregon county?

Closing Warner Creek will not have the same effect on our community as closing a facility in Salem or the surrounding areas, an area you are more familiar with. In that area, current employees could assimilate into the remaining facilities without displacing families, causing them to relocate, sell their homes in a decimated housing market and move their children to new schools. If they choose to leave ODOC, there are many more job opportunities in that area. It would not cause a cascading effect in the community, causing reduction in employment in the schools, hospitals and other businesses due to lack of revenue. Closing Warner Creek would do just that. **We, in Lake County are part of Oregon, we also matter.** We are not suggesting the closure of those facilities either, but we also don't want you to assume the impact will be the same as it would other communities because your perceptions are based on lack of knowledge of our community's circumstances.

We believe that this has not been looked at thoroughly. We ask that you reconsider, as the closure of Warner Creek Correctional Facility would be an absolute devastation to Lakeview and all of Lake County. We strongly encourage you to visit our community and facility for a better understanding of the impact your decision will have.

Melissa Bucher
AFSCME Local 3371
Warner Creek Correctional Facility
51 N T Street
Lakeview, Oregon 97630
541-417-1135

Warner Creek Correctional Facility (WCCF) Closing testimony by Brenda J Johnson.

I moved to Lakeview Oregon over fifteen (15) years ago at the opening of Warner Creek Correctional Facility.

I have worked for Oregon Department of Corrections (OCOC) since January 3, 2005.

- The approximate jobs at WCCF is 108 jobs. This is not including positions that are not paid by other than ODOC or any volunteers.
 - Per <https://www.oregonbusiness.com/article/real-estate/item/18575-rural-county-stakes-its-future-on-renewable-energy-projects> one (1) job in Lake County equals 520 jobs in Multnomah or (email attached from Commissioner Mark Albertson) A loss of one job in Lake County is the same as 1000 jobs in urban areas of the State.
 - Every aspect of losing this many jobs from WCCF will devastate Lake County.

- What will be impacted in Lake County? It will be a devastating blow to Lake County.
 - Schools- The number of students that will be leaving to other areas could be up to 10 percent.
 - Which will decrease funds for teachers and aids for Lakeview Schools
 - The businesses in Lake County will have approximately 58 percent less State Employees purchasing from their businesses. (per <https://securservercdn.net/198.71.233.254/d77.686.myftpupload.com/wp-content/uploads/2016/10/Impacts-of-Government-Jobs-in-Lake-County-Oregon-2011-1.pdf>)
 - Approximately 58 percent less State Employees purchasing groceries
 - Approximately 58 percent less State Employees purchasing appliances
 - Approximately 58 percent less State Employees seeing doctors in Lake County
 - Approximately 58 percent less State Employees being seen at Lake District Hospital
 - Approximately 58 percent less State Employees buying home improvement items
 - Approximately 58 percent less State Employees purchasing homes
 - Approximately 58 percent less State Employees selling homes which will cause the bottom of the housing market to drop out
 - Causing every Lake County citizen to lose value on their home
 - Approximately 58 percent less State Employees paying taxes
 - Approximately 58 percent less State Employees purchasing Vehicles/Boats/ATVs
 - Approximately 58 percent less State Employees purchasing gasoline/propane/heating oil/heating supplies
 - Approximately 58 percent less State Employees purchasing meals from restaurants
 - This means less revenue for Lake County which causes a ripple effect of all aspects of life in Lake County.
 - The community will have fewer State Employees that volunteer as coaches, mentors, tutors, volunteer at schools, serve on a Community Board and support the local sports teams, arts programs and church activities.

- WCCF information
 - Opened in 2005. Received first Adults in Custody September of 2005 with the amount of beds was 406.
 - WCCF received 30 emergency beds in November 2012. This brought up WCCF to 436 beds for Adults in Custody.

- WCCF received 30 emergency beds in April 2013. This brought up WCCF to 466 beds for Adults in Custody.
 - WCCF received 30 more Emergency beds on or about May 15, 2013. This took us up to 496.
 - WCCF never received more staff to assist with the approximate 25% more Adults in Custody. WCCF has prided itself on being fiscally responsible and found ways of doing more, while using less budgetary funds.
 - WCCF never received more funds (budget) to help with the additional Adults in Custody.
 - WCCF received the State Energy Efficiency Design (SEED) award in May 2008 for its progress in design efficiency. The most energy-efficient element at WCCF is the use of geothermal energy, providing 100 percent of the hot water to the facility. (<https://www.klamathfallsnews.org/news/warner-creek-correctional-facility-honors-dedicated-volunteers#:~:text=WCCF%20opened%20in%20September%202005,hot%20water%20to%20the%20facility.>)
 - WCCF is the **most energy efficient institution** within the Oregon Department of Corrections.
 - WCCF is the **second newest** Institution within ODOC.
 - WCCF's budget has been continuously reduced, but WCCF has continuously ended in the black for each biennium.
 - WCCF has continued to do the job that needs to be done with more Adults in Custody with less funds.
 - Research needs to be made to find out what the obligation of ODOC is regarding the Geothermal system in Lakeview.
 - WCCF has one of the highest GED graduation statistics for Adults in Custody (AIC) within ODOC. We have been helping AIC's better themselves since the beginning of WCCF coming online.
- Covid Pandemic
- Because of WCCF's location, Adults in custody have been protected from the current Pandemic because of the remote location of the Institution.
 - Because most of Lake County residents are as isolated as the Adults in Custody, the numbers of Covid in Lake County are very low.
 - Staff and Adults in custody that will be moved to another Institution would be at high risk.
 - The businesses of Lake County have been devastated by the Pandemic Covid. We have had many businesses close their doors permanently and most of the others are barely hanging on as it is right now. Take away some of the County's highest income earners, more businesses will close.
- ODOC Health and Wellness
- You have all heard that ODOC's number one priority is Staff Health and Wellness.
 - This issue has already caused masked panic to those at WCCF.
 - Not only at WCCF are potentially impacted. Both the westside and eastside staff are starting to worry about bumping, and staff members losing their jobs, people having to relocate, and people are downright scared. Stress is going to be affecting staff wellness, which will affect overtime and morale across the board.
 - WCCF has been trying to become healthier one employee at a time! A couple of years ago staff lost over 500 pounds in a year. Since then, it has gone over 500 pounds lost at WCCF. With all the excessive worrying regarding the possible

closure, I am concerned that those that have bettered themselves with diet and exercise will revert to their old ways because of the uncertainty of the future.

- How this will personally affect my family
 - My husband and I both work for the department.
 - My husband started with the Department December 1995.
 - Trying to relocate currently in our life is going to be horrible to say the least.
 - We are close to retirement, but not close enough.
 - We will be fiscally impacted by the following
 - Selling our home at a very low price because of everyone else trying to sell their homes.
 - Relocating fees-moving van that we will not be reimbursed for.
 - Purchasing a new place to live at a more expensive area than where we have lived for over 15 years.
 - Getting settled into a new area.
 - We love working for Oregon Department of Corrections.
 - We have had a great life because of the job(s) that we have had within the Department.
 - We moved to Lakeview to help open the prison because we loved the area of Lakeview.
 - We enjoy the outdoor activities (fishing)
 - Love the small community living
 - Love being rural
 - If WCCF closes, I believe my husband and I will have to declare bankruptcy. I am a represented employee, so I will be able to bump somewhere at another institution. However, my husband will not be able to bump anyone in a represented position. Since he will not be able to bump someone, there is no guarantee that he would be able to get a job at the same institution as I. We have been married over 30 years and the thought that we may have to live in separate houses is beyond unfair.
 - As I stated earlier, this is going to devastate our lives.
 - Not being able to sell our house
 - Having to move to a higher housing market
 - Possibly needing two households
 - Being close to retirement but not close enough
 - Extreme distress preparing for this change of plans for our lives.
- Please find a different way to help balance the budget other than closing WCCF.
- Please talk to the AFSCME members to see if we can come up with a different way to help bridge the gap. We are all out for the same thing, a balanced budget and for staff to keep their homes, lifestyle and their jobs.
- Please consider visiting Lakeview and tour the prison that is slated to close. So you can see first hand the condition of the institution and meet with the staff, community and Business owners. Possibly participate in a town hall meeting (online if needed).

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Respectfully,

Brenda J. Johnson

July 27, 2020

Honorable Co-Chair Senator Manning, Jr. Honorable Co-Chair Representative Sollman, and Honorable members of Joint Interim Ways and Means Committee:

My name is Brian Bogardus a dentist for the Department of Corrections currently employed at Warner Creek Correctional facility housed in Lakeview, Oregon. I am writing you today to voice my concerns regarding your recent proposals facing the upcoming Oregon budget deficit. Particularly the closure of Warner Creek Correctional facility.

Being born and raised in the small community of Lakeview I have seen numerous businesses close their doors over the course of several decades. This list includes the several mill closures and MC ranch closure in the early 1990's which resulted in several hundred jobs being lost and several hundred people leaving the town of Lakeview. These closures were catastrophic to the economy of Lakeview and 30 years later the town is still recovering from them.

In the late 1990's the city of Lakeview was approached with the idea of bringing a prison to the town. The idea was met with mixed emotions among community members. Among these community members was my father John Bogardus city attorney for the town of Lakeview. He was in strong support in bringing a prison to the community and hoping to give the struggling economy a needed boost. After years of public debate, it was decided that Lakeview would be host to Warner Creek Correctional Facility and was opened in 2005.

I am asking you to reconsider your proposed budget cuts specifically Warner Creek Correctional Facility. I'm not asking you for myself but specifically for the people that worked so hard to get this prison to the town of Lakeview, for the 110 employees who come to work everyday and put their selves on the front lines, and for the town of Lakeview. A closure of this magnitude would cause an economic down turn that would be unrecoverable for the city and residents of Lakeview, and essentially wipe the town of Lakeview off the map.

Sincerely

Brian Bogardus DMD





Lake District Hospital
Lake Health Clinic
Specialty Clinic
Home Health & Hospice
Behavioral Health & Prevention
Lake County Public Health

July 24, 2020

Members of the Joint Interim Committee On Ways and Means Subcommittee On Public Safety

Re: Concerns with Proposed Closure of the Warner Creek Correctional Facility

Co-Chairs Manning and Sollman and Members of the Committee:

I am very concerned about the possibility of closing the Warner Creek Correctional Facility slated for the 2021-2023 biennium. The prison employs over 100 people in our remote community, and should they relocate due to the loss of jobs, that would greatly impact the schools, water treatment facilities and many other community infrastructure organizations. The loss of employees and adults in custody would impact the number of people treated at our hospital, clinics, and mental health facilities also, which puts a strain on our financial health.

Any time the issue of closing services in a rural setting to relocate it to a more urban one is disappointing for many reasons. These include:

1. Loss of wages of employees.
2. Damage to fragile community infrastructure that is nominally impacted in urban settings.
3. Increase in costs to the State as wages and cost of living are frequently higher in urban settings versus rural areas.
4. Difficulty in repurposing vacated prison space as other businesses are not readily available to move into the location.

Warner Creek Correctional Facility is a well-managed, energy efficient facility and it is my believe that the State would be best served by keeping it open.

Thank you in advance for your consideration.

Sincerely yours,

Charles B. Tveit
Chief Executive Officer

Lake Health District