

DENNIS LINTHICUM
STATE SENATOR
District - 28



OREGON STATE SENATE
900 COURT STREET NE, S-305
SALEM, OR 97301

July 24, 2020

Honorable Co-Chair Senator Manning, Jr.
Honorable Co-Chair Representative Sollman
Honorable Members of the Joint Interim Ways & Means Committee on Public Safety
Via eMail: jwmps.exhibits@oregonlegislature.gov

Subject: Shutter Creek Correctional Institution; Warner Creek Correctional Facility

JWM Public Safety Committee Co-Chairs and Honorable Members,

As the State Senator for Oregon's 28th District, which includes portions of five rural Oregon counties, I understand the dilemma that is faced by our state's current fiscal problems. The counties that I represent in rural Oregon (Jackson, Klamath, Lake, Deschutes and Crook) have all been exposed to enormous hardship as they join in the state's battle for public health and economic prosperity.

Today's agenda has an item with regard to the closure of the Shutter Creek facility in rural Coos county. On the table is also the suggestion that the closure of the Warner Creek facility in Lake County will happen in the next budget cycle. I strongly recommend keeping both of these facilities open, as they provide a meaningful and relevant option for DOC's management of AICs.

The legislature does not yet have all of the necessary input from the various agencies and stakeholders to provide a realistic analysis of the costs and benefits of closure for either of these facilities. Gathering more input and understanding regarding the far-reaching ramifications of closing these valuable facilities is necessary. In Lake Co., closure would devastate the economy. The loss of employment opportunities in this small county of less than 8,000 would be devastating. While DOC employees may successfully transfer, their homes cannot and will flood the market. This single event will negatively impact the entire community.

If the goal is to decrease the AIC population this should first be investigated, along with sustainable and collaborative actions within the criminal justice system. A full-throated reform initiative would require a review of the entire system, not just the arbitrary sacrifice of one correctional facility over another. These facilities successfully serve both AICs and their respective at-large communities.

My request is that you increase your efforts to keep these fully functional and economically viable facilities. They represent the bulwark of DOC's remotely located custodial assets and they are a necessary component of and local county community justice programs. Thank you for your attention to the complex details under consideration.

Sincerely,



Dennis Linthicum, OR State Senate, District 28



From the Office of
REPRESENTATIVE RAQUEL MOORE-GREEN

To: The Joint Subcommittee on Public Safety

From: Rep. Raquel Moore-Green, HD19

Date: July 23, 2020

Subject: Statement on potential closure of Shutter Creek Correctional Institution and Warner Creek Correctional Facility.

Fellow Members –

First and foremost, I would like to thank the co-chairs for working to find solutions to Oregon's budgetary issues brought on by COVID19 and the shuttering of our economy. During this unprecedented time in Oregon's history I am concerned that our focus on rebalancing Oregon's budget is falling on the backs of our rural communities.

There was a time not so long ago where most prisons were in Salem and were an extreme burden on our community. A conscious effort was made to spread out the locations to communities where the jobs were desperately needed, and facilities were welcomed with open arms.

The proposed closure of Shutter Creek Correctional Institution in North Bend and Warner Creek Correctional Facility in Lakeview will be disastrous to the families of those employed there as well school systems and communities as a whole. This action would mean the loss of 187 jobs and moving 766 AIC's (Adults in Custody) to other institutions where we are already struggling to provide the mandated hygiene and social distancing during this COVID-19 pandemic. Now is not the time to add hundreds to our unemployment numbers and put more families in jeopardy. I believe this is a short-sited answer to our budget woes. Thank you.

All my best, rmg

Raquel Moore-Green
State Representative HD19, South Salem, Turner, and Aumsville

Concerns about proposed prison closures

David P. Gillies

AFSCME local 2376

Dear legislators.

The proposed prison closures of Shutter Creek Correctional Facility in North Bend and Warner Creek Correctional Facility in Lakeview Oregon require further study.

These facilities are Keystone employers in their communities. The Department of Corrections is the largest employer in these areas that can provide a living wage job. The closure of these facilities will result in a ripple effect threatening the stability of other businesses within the communities in which they are located. Warner Creek was sited in Lakeview specifically to improve the jobs climate in an economically depressed area. Shutter Creek in North Bend provides the same advantages for that community. North Bend is an economically depressed area due to the loss of logging and tourism due to Covid 19.

There are no other DOC facilities within a reasonable commute of these areas. Employees wishing to finish their career with DOC must sell and move to an area where correctional facility exists. With the lack of jobs as a result of these closures, many DOC employees and community business members may have to sell their greatest asset, their homes and businesses at loss, affecting the market or all sellers within the area. In effect of these closures will cause the real estate market in these areas to plummet.

Can you in good conscience devastate both the DOC families and these communities without looking at the long-term effects.

The fact is that both Salem and Portland would not suffer the same devastating effects if Columbia River or Mill Creek Correctional Facilities were chosen in their place.

Correctional opportunities already exist in Salem and in Wilsonville.

Please reconsider these proposed closures.

Thank you

Members of the Public Safety Sub Committee;

My name is Cathleen, I work at SRCI in Ontario where I have been for nearly 20 years as a DOC employee. I started as an Officer, I've been a Sergeant, and Exec Support, the Superintendent Exec Support and I'm now an Accounting Technician. In addition to my positions I am also a Crisis Negotiation on the CNT at the largest prison in Oregon, one of the highest trained in the nation, so my experience with the Department is both lengthy and very colorful. I'm proud to call the Department of Corrections my professional home the way you are proud of your legislation body.

Just as you have dedicated your entire professional life to the State, so have our correctional professionals. We have stood by Oregon through thick and thin, through AIC's threatening us, assaulting us, describing the abuse they would like to subject us and our families too, I've saved lives, I've risked my life, I've been there for AIC's and staff as we have navigated incarceration over the last two decades. I have bought in to everything you guys have sold us on making Oregon better by making Corrections better – **this is my life work**. I don't know how you would feel if your elected positions didn't exist tomorrow but I can tell you for corrections folks it would be devastating. Closing institutions means ending careers, corrections is not simply a job you can just go out and find – we are a special type of Corrections Employee – molded and trained specifically for Oregon and the Oregon Way. We have years of dedication and loyalty to this state. I am asking you today to keep Oregonians employed, the Oregonians that have safe guarded citizen lives, dealt with the people who have done the worst things that can be done, day in and day out for you and the citizens of Oregon. I'm asking you to keep people employed who have made a life out of helping offenders become better people in an effort to reduce criminality and victimization. Please think of the sacrifices these people have made and the fact that they cannot simply go work in another prison – there are no other prisons in their towns. You probably don't think much about what goes on in prison while you are sleeping, we do. We think about it 24/7/365. It never leaves us. It transforms us into people that don't like crowds and are constantly on high alert, leading to healthy problems that sometimes can't be overcome . . . but we do it for you and the 1000's of Oregonians that rely on us to keep them safe and to deal with the people that society has deemed too dangerous for the public. That is a sacrifice you will never understand because you have never looked that fear in the eye, we have done it for you. Please do not turn your backs on Corrections at the worst possible time when jobs are scarce and people have exhausted their savings and families have been broken already. Please be a strength that our communities can rely on and trust. I'm respectfully asking you to find a way to deal with the budget without taking away jobs from those who have already given you everything, every day, every year, every Christmas, everything. I assure you that corrections professionals can and have come up with ways to cut spending, save money and keep jobs – we just need you to work with us.

Respectfully, Cathleen

Cathleen Vokral

SRCI Business Office
AFSCME Local 2376 Secretary

Subject: Correctional Facilities
Date: Wednesday, July 22, 2020 5:22:32 PM

Please consider voting against closing the prisons to save school funding. Shutter Creek is a release facility for southern Oregon. When visiting is allowed, the families of these men are able to spend up to four visiting sessions each weekend with their incarcerated loved one. It is a proven fact family support reduces the recidivism rate. The mission of the Department of Corrections is to reduce the recidivism rate, so these incarcerated adults need their family support but if they are forced to drive 3 hours further each way for a visit, the family visiting will be reduced. The children need to see their fathers and the fathers need to see their children.

Shutter Creek is a valuable asset to the community. They provide low cost labor to many companies including the schools and the Parks Department. They even have a certified firefighter program that help fight forrest fires. They bring in income that supports the cost of running the facility.

Both of the proposed closures are in economic depressed areas that need the jobs. It would be devastating to both locations to lose the employment in these areas.

How can it be justified to cut the prison budget for the schools, when it is unsure what the school budget will even be for the year. A very large percentage of parents will be choosing online schooling options for their children, which will drastically reduce the school budget.

Please consider the adults in custody and their families that will have to travel further for needed visits, the loss of reduced labor to the local parks and recreation and fire crews, the hundreds of Oregonians that will be unemployed, and the onsite job training that the men in custody that will no longer have when they re-enter the community.

These facilities are needed!

Thank you for your time,

Amy Johnson

Subject: Discussion of Prison closure In Lake and Coos County
Date: Wednesday, July 22, 2020 4:46:15 PM

Closing the Shutter Creek and Warner Creek prisons will devastate the already compromised Lakeview and North Bend communities and negatively impact all of Coos and Lake County. These communities cannot sustain this type of a hit, especially during some of the worst economic times our communities have seen. The impact will last generations. Ultimately, this will mean less revenue for the state.

You have already received comments from 2 people who will be impacted by your decisions. They have very viable information and legitimate concerns. Please pay attention to what they have to say!

Your legislative decisions have already devastated these communities from curtailment of logging and fishing in addition to a general struggle of the economic structure of smaller communities.

I realize the state's budget must be adjusted given the decrease in revenue. However, I know there are other avenues to pursue than these two closures. Where are you going to house inmates? Just let them out to re-offend and prey on the community once again? These two facilities have met with some success in rehabilitating offenders, why on earth would you want to destroy that? Look closely at what the state supports. What is necessary and what is only NICE to have? Answering that question should give you a good start to the process. Don't just consider your own pet projects. For once, try really hard to do the right thing, not the political thing.

Suggestions for decrease could be cutting out the DEQ testing locations. The newer cars are much more efficient than in days past. Another is to divest the state of the OLCC. Liquor taxes would still be available but all other associated costs would not.

Please deliberate carefully and with the goal of disrupting as few lives and families as possible. Remember the smaller, rural communities are much more vulnerable because of their size and location than the metro areas.

Sincerely,

Vicki L Schaur

Subject: Don't close our prisons
Date: Wednesday, July 22, 2020 9:06:07 PM

Greetings,

I'm writing to ask you to please reconsider closing Shutter Creek Correctional Institute (SCCI) and Warner Creek Correctional Facility (WCCF).

First and foremost, these two facilities are two of the best ran facilities in the state. Of all the prisons in the state, these two are the closest to running in the black year after year. WCCF is energy efficient with their geothermal heating system. SCCI has several work programs that allow the AICs to learn skills that will enable them to be productive citizen upon their release. These work crews are contracted out to various businesses and parks departments which creates an income source for the Department of Correction,

Additionally, I feel closing ANY prison is detrimental to the operations of the Department of Corrections. The closure of SCCI AND WCCF will create an overcrowded situation in the remaining facilities in the state. This overcrowded situation will more than likely reduce the availability of programs designed to help adults in custody (AICs) become productive citizens upon their release. Not to mention the reduction in morale among the employees who are responsible for overseeing the care of these AICs. When Correctional Officers are faced with an overcrowded prison situation, often times the best they can do is REACT to any given situation instead of proactively preventing it from happening.

Also consider over 100 correctional officers will be FORCED to relocate to new communities if they hope to keep their family wage jobs. Not only will these officers relocate, but so will their families. The ripple-effect through these two small communities will be a crushing blow that they may never recover from.

In addition, Another effect of overcrowded prisons is the very real possibility of early release of AICs. I know some people feel it's better to release them early for many reasons, but what about their victims? How are the victims supposed to feel justice was served when the perpetrators are released before their full sentences are served?

I implore you to find another way to balance the budget. Closing two very well ran prisons is not the way to do it.

Thank you,

Barbara LaClair
Reedsport, Oregon

Sent from my iPhone

Date:

Wednesday, July 22, 2020 1:16:31 PM

Please do NOT close the prison!

It needs to remain open.

Cut overpaid governor's salary or Portland's mayor's salary if necessary.

Check to see if Ted Wheeler is drawing salary as mayor AND police commissioner.

This is important!

Subject: PLEASE DO NOT CLOSE PRISONS in Lake and Coos Co
Date: Wednesday, July 22, 2020 3:44:45 PM

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

Closing the Shutter Creek and Warner Creek prisons will devastate the already compromised Lakeview and North Bend communities and negatively impact all of Coos and Lake County. These communities cannot sustain this type of a hit, especially during some of the worst economic times our communities have seen. The impact will last generations.

Please read the following comments from 2 people who will be impacted by your decisions. They have viable information and concerns:

"The loss of jobs would be 108. With our families we make up 14% of the population of Lakeview. Our children make up 6% of Lake County School district and 17% of the Paisley school, with a loss of school funding of more than \$400,000 a year. That doesn't include the more than 40 children that will start school in the next few years. Is that going to result in a loss of teachers or support staff? We own over 60 homes in the community, imagine what that will do to the housing market, no one will be able to sell their home without a loss. We occupy more than 20 rentals. The loss of jobs/population would reduce revenue for not only the school, but also the hospital and every other business and has the potential of causing reduction of workforce in those businesses as a result. One business that we, as employees frequent, said that we are approximately 1/3 of their business." Melissa Harris

"We are from a small town and the forest service chose to move its headquarters to a bigger town. Nobody seemed to care much at the time, but then the school enrollment dropped, the second grocery market closed, and the little hospital closed too." Gabi Leal

Oregon's Coast is gorgeous and majestic, but the once flourishing towns and communities that line the coast are starving for family wage jobs. Mills up and down the coast have been abandoned and communities dried up because of the lack of timber harvest and commercial fishing. These mills are surrounded by vast timberlands that have been locked up to timber harvest. The once thriving commercial fishing industry is still an integral component to the regional economy of southwestern Oregon. However, the tourism and service industries have replaced the timber and fishing industries as the main source of income. Tourism jobs do not pay much more than minimum wage, which makes it critical to keep these family wage jobs at the prisons.

Based on the 2000 U.S. Census “health care and social assistance” was the top occupational field (17.7%), followed by “retail trade” with 15.3%, and “educational services” with 8.2%. The “agriculture, forestry, fishing and hunting” occupations represented 3.6% combined.

If the timber and commercial fishing industries were healthy, shutting down these prisons would not have such a devastating impact, but that is not the case.

Coos County needs to keep the jobs at the prisons to maintain their way of life. Family wage jobs are hard to come by on the coast, please don't make it harder!

Sincerely,
Jen Hamaker

Subject: Please Save our Careers and Sources of Income
Date: Wednesday, July 22, 2020 12:37:47 PM

To Whom it may Concern,

Recently all the employees of the Oregon Department of Corrections were notified of possible closures of state prisons due to budget issues. We were notified of this during a time when all of us are coming to work as essential employees and putting our lives on the line in the face of COVID-19 in order to keep our communities safe. Closing prisons is not the answer and would be devastating to the economies where the closures would occur. I am currently a Correctional Counselor at Snake River Correctional Institution in the Correctional Rehabilitation area. Before I began my career in corrections I came from an elementary education background. Honestly, I had no idea how important prisons are to the well-being of our state until I saw it first-hand. The Oregon Department of Corrections has a huge focus on rehabilitation and providing much needed services to those who will most likely release back into society someday and be our neighbors. Prisons have become the largest "mental health hospitals" in the nation due to the defunding of many state mental health facilities. Without our facilities, many incarcerated people would not receive much needed help in the areas of education, drug and alcohol treatment, job skills, mental health provisions, general health needs, etc. The list goes on and on. Those who are incarcerated, with the exception of a small percentage, will one day be released to be with their families and loved ones in the communities where they originally received their prison sanctions. The services provided in the Oregon Department of Corrections ensures that many of the incarcerated are given invaluable tools in order to be positive members of society upon release.

Please don't forget these employees who put their lives on the line every day to keep our state safe. We deal with the scariest part of society, so most of the public can live their lives in peace. Some of the budget shortfalls are completely out of our hands involving legislative decisions that require the state to provide extremely expensive health care treatments to Adults in Custody (AICs). Many of these treatments far exceed what most employees could afford even if they were in a place where they needed the same care (yes, even with health insurance.) Please don't punish corrections staff for these decisions that were completely out of our control.

I am asking that all of you as legislatures will support the employees in the Oregon Department of Corrections. We have already gone through one round of lay-offs this year where many had to be re-assigned to a lower paying position. We are continuing to come to work in an environment where there are the most COVID cases in the state. Why do we do this? Because we care deeply about our state and our communities and we will keep our fellow citizens safe at all costs. Please show us the same care and advocate for our careers, livelihoods, and dignity.

Respectfully,

Kailee Evans
Correctional Counselor/IMU

CISM/Peer Support Team Lead
Snake River Correctional Institution
Office: 541-881-4950
Cell: 541-216-3672

Subject: Possible Prison Closures Wednesday,
Date: July 22, 2020 5:46:33 PM

Good morning from Reedsport. I am Kelly Williams, a security officer at Shutter Creek Correctional Institution. We have heard that Governor Brown is going to propose that Shutter Creek and Warner Creek be shut down due to budget problems. I am writing in the hopes that you can help influence this decision in a way to keep us open and working. We live in the poorest area of Oregon and the economic impact will be incredibly hard on Reedsport residents, not to mention those south of us. I don't have hard figures yet but the impact will be in the millions of dollars lost to the south coast. I am sick to death at the thought of losing my career. I have almost 15 years with the Department of Corrections. I have given heart and soul to my career. I lead a team of peers that helps all employees deal with the stresses caused by our kind of work and, indeed, the stresses of life. DOC has a huge wellness part of our work, trying to stem the amount of suicides in our ranks. To just throw us away puts a lie to what they have been telling us for years, that we matter. Please help us convince the governor to not close these prisons and put all of us out of work. If SCCI gets closed, the state of Oregon loses that property that they paid one dollar for. It goes back to the federal government and DOC will never get that back. Warner Creek Correctional Facility, a purpose built prison will revert to the farmer who donated the land. What in the world would he do with it? What happens when the courts open up and start minting new felons? All the beds will be full and we will have overcrowding, making prisons more dangerous for staff and Adults in Custody. Oregon has put many millions into making SCCI a minimum security prison, even recently spending untold hundreds of thousands for new generators, new fiber optics and cameras, new roofs, new fire suppression water system, etc. It makes no sense for the state of Oregon to jump over a dollar to save a dime. The ripple effect will be felt up and down the south coast at the local level for many years to come. This is an economic hit the area cannot stand. Personally, for me and my family, it will be a nightmare causing us to split up our family while I work in the valley and come home on weekends, making me a part time husband and father. That is an unfair hardship to put on all these families. If the state closes these prisons, they lose them, completely. Again, if it closes, many of us lose much more. Many of us will have to move, at great expense, possibly losing equity in our homes, as well. I have never asked anyone in government for anything, but I have voted as my civic duty and plead with you now to help us.

Thank you,
Kelly Williams

Subject: Prison Closure testimony Please read
Date: Wednesday, July 22, 2020 11:57:46 AM

My name is Cathleen, I work at SRCI in Ontario where I have been for nearly 20 years as a DOC employee. I started as an Officer, I've been a Sergeant, and Exec Support, the Superintendent Exec Support and I'm now an Accounting Technician. In addition to my positions I am also a Crisis Negotiation on the CNT at the largest prison in Oregon, one of the highest trained in the nation, so my experience with the Department is both lengthy and very colorful. I'm proud to call the Department of Corrections my professional home the way you are proud of your legislation body.

Just as you have dedicated your entire professional life to the State, so have our correctional professionals. We have stood by Oregon through thick and thin, through AIC's threatening us, assaulting us, describing the abuse they would like to subject us and our families too, I've saved lives, I've risked my life, I've been there for AIC's and staff as we have navigated incarceration over the last two decades. I have bought in to everything you guys have sold us on making Oregon better by making Corrections better – **this is my life work**. I don't know how you would feel if your elected positions didn't exist tomorrow but I can tell you for corrections folks it would be devastating. Closing institutions means ending careers, corrections is not simply a job you can just go out and find – we are a special type of Corrections Employee – molded and trained specifically for Oregon and the Oregon Way. We have years of dedication and loyalty to this state. I am asking you today to keep Oregonians employed, the Oregonians that have safe guarded citizen lives, dealt with the people who have done the worst things that can be done, day in and day out for you and the citizens of Oregon. I'm asking you to keep people employed who have made a life out of helping offenders become better people in an effort to reduce criminality and victimization. Please think of the sacrifices these people have made and the fact that they cannot simply go work in another prison – there are no other prisons in their towns. You probably don't think much about what goes on in prison while you are sleeping, we do. We think about it 24/7/365. It never leaves us. It transforms us into people that don't like crowds and are constantly on high alert, leading to healthy problems that sometimes can't be overcome . . . but we do it for you and the 1000's of Oregonians that rely on us to keep them safe and to deal with the people that society has deemed too dangerous for the public. That is a sacrifice you will never understand because you have never looked that fear in the eye, we have done it for you. Please do not turn your backs on Corrections at the worst possible time when jobs are scarce and people have exhausted their savings and families have been broken already. Please be a strength that our communities can rely on and trust. I'm respectfully asking you to find a way to deal with the budget without taking away jobs from those who have already given you everything, every day, every year, every Christmas, everything. I assure you that corrections professionals can and have come up with ways to cut spending, save money and keep jobs – we just need you to work with us.

Respectfully, Cathleen

Cathleen Vokral

SRCI Business Office
AFSCME Local 2376 Secretary

Subject: Prison closures
Date: Monday, July 20, 2020 9:29:48 PM

To whom it concerns,

I believe that to close any of our prisons is sending the wrong message to the community.
Keep our prisons open!!

Mike Davidson.

Sent from my Verizon, Samsung Galaxy smartphone

Subject: prison closures
Date: Wednesday, July 22, 2020 4:16:03 PM

To:

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

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Based on the 2000 U.S. Census "health care and social assistance" was the top occupational field (17.7%), followed by "retail trade" with 15.3%, and "educational services" with 8.2%. The "agriculture, forestry, fishing and hunting" occupations represented 3.6% combined.

If the timber and commercial fishing industries were healthy, shutting down these prisons would not have such a devastating impact, but that is not the case.

Coos County needs to keep the jobs at the prisons to maintain their way of life. Family wage jobs are hard to come by on the coast, please don't make it harder!

Sincerely,
Aleta Rice

Subject: Prison closures
Date: Thursday, July 23, 2020 9:20:12 PM

To:

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

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If the timber and commercial fishing industries were healthy, shutting down these prisons would not have such a devastating impact, but that is not the case.

Coos County needs to keep the jobs at the prisons to maintain their way of life. Family wage jobs are hard to come by on the coast, please don't make it harder!

What is to come of the prisoners? Released into the very areas hit by this decision?

Sincerely,
Melissa Brownell

Subject: Prison Closures
Date: Friday, July 24, 2020 9:15:26 AM

Dear Co-Chairs Manning and Sollman, members of the committee,
My name is Greg Clouser I am a 20-year correctional corporal at Two Rivers Correctional institution in Umatilla Oregon. I have seen first hand how jobs in rural Oregon keep small towns and people employed living a life that all Oregonians want. I have seen what it does for health care, small businesses, home sales and how it brings in more business to a small community. Keeping these facilities open just makes sense for all of Oregon. Our facilities also help the community grow and by working with the community each facility supports all the small businesses. We also have adults in custody who also work in those communities helping those communities. Taking that away will put a burden on those towns and for a minimal amount of gain. If we close these facilities and move the adults in custody to other facilities, we are just going to see an increased problem with COVID exposure. Temporary and emergency housing looks like a bunch of bunk beds in a gym with extraordinarily little chance for social distancing and could have profound consequences. Every institution is trying its best and I think DOC has been doing a great job but taking over 800 inmates and now dispersing them throughout the other overcrowded institutions will only make that burden harder. DOC already has over 900 emergency beds, another 800 will not help at all.

Staffing levels at our facility were set long before I started, and every institution overtime is absolutely through the roof. Two Rivers has staff being mandated to stay a second shift without being able to say no sometimes two or three times a week. As an example lets say you came to work today and tonight you have something scheduled a birthday for your wife or child you expected to go home but sorry because of staffing levels you now have to stay. You will work from 6:00 a.m. till 10:00 p.m. today and you cannot refuse. We have staff doing that several times a week The Oregon Department of Corrections does a great job serving its communities, the state and this legislature. Short Staffing levels are nothing new to you and now taking jobs from individuals during a pandemic only hurts our small communities that are actually doing well during this time and taking away one of its biggest employers is not something this legislature should do.

In my 20 years some of the best individuals I have ever met worked for DOC. They go to work every day not knowing if they will get to come home, and not just because of the mandates, they do their job well and are proud of it. For us, being a public servant, the community and pay and benefits are the reasons we do this job. All we are asking is that you allow us to do our job, keep Oregon safe and keep our prisons open.

--

Cpl. G. Clouser

Contract Specialist Oregon AFSCME Council 75
President, Local 974 TRCI Umatilla Oregon

Two Rivers Correctional Institution
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Subject: Prison Closures
Date: Monday, July 20, 2020 3:24:28 PM

I'm writing you today regarding the possible shut down of two prisons in Oregon. Primarily Shuttters Creek Correctional Institute in North Bend Oregon.

Shuttters Creek means a lot to myself personally as my husband is employed as a sergeant and is the main source of income to my household of myself, my husband, and our 5-month-old daughter. It also affects me as I own a small business in Coos Bay. With so many people already leaving our community due to lack of jobs, Covid-19 shut downs, and the high cost of living. I'm not sure how our economy will be able to handle another huge blow.

Let's talk about all the things we could lose, if we lose our prison.

Shuttters contracts with multiple local businesses and community organizations. When you add up contracted services, payroll, the money they spend in supplies at local businesses. It adds up to millions that this community will lose. Department staff are actively involved in their communities, serving on commissions, participating in volunteer organizations, coaching kids' teams, and otherwise giving their time. They have done various fund-raising events for our local foster children. It goes on and on

City of Lakeside will lose out on over \$200,000.00 a year for sewer fees.

A salary wage job, with great benefits, giving families enough money to spend in our town to boost our economy. That's roughly 87 families that would be leaving Coos County to find jobs elsewhere. Many have made careers here and can't afford to start a new career so will be forced to leave families behind while they try to find housing for families in new towns and counties. Loss of jobs, property taxes ect will be huge to Coos County.

I urge you, no I BEG you, please, please stand up for us and don't shut us down. Our budget needs balanced but I don't think we should close downs prisons to get there. We will be closing so much more than a facility. You'll be closing down an entire community.

Thank you for your time.
Gen Torgerson

Subject: Shutting down two state prisons
Date: Monday, July 20, 2020 5:34:19 PM

I'm writing you today regarding the possible shut down of two prisons in Oregon. Primarily Shuttters Creek Correctional Institution in North Bend, Oregon.

Let me begin with why I am very passionate about saving Shuttters Creek from a shutdown. Shuttters Creek is where my husband is employed as a correctional lieutenant. For our family of four he is our main source of income. If Shuttters creek was to close permanently we would be forced to move away. We are both fourth generation children of our community. Having been born and raised here, in Coos Bay Oregon, all of our family is here. Our two children (ages 8 and 6) would be ripped away from their aunts, uncles, cousins, grandparents and great grandparents. I, myself, have been working in a local pharmacy here in town for the past 10 years if our family was to move away my pharmacy staff would suffer a huge loss with losing a long time team mate. With so many people already leaving our community due to lack of jobs, COVID-19 shut downs, and the high cost of living. I'm not sure how our economy will be able to handle another huge blow.

Now setting aside the emotional reasons, let's talk about all the things we could lose, if we lose our prison.

Shuttters Creek contracts with multiple local businesses and community organizations. Did you know that prior to COVID-19 the adults in custody would work at our local hospice thrift store? They are such an asset to that thrift store. With a small staff it is hard to sort thru all the donations and rotate out new items. But with the help of the adults in custody at Shuttters Creek, it made it possible. Are you also aware that the adults in custody are the main people who put up all the lights at Shore Acres during the holidays? Without them it would take much longer to hang lights and décor because their just isn't enough community volunteers. The list could go on and on showing how the adults in custody at Shuttters Creek positively impact our community.

When you add up contracted services, payroll, the money they spend in supplies at local businesses it adds up to millions that this community will lose. Department staff are actively involved in their communities, serving on commissions, participating in PTA, volunteering in school/field trips, coaching children's sport teams, and otherwise giving their time. They have done various fundraising events for our local foster children. The list could go on and on.

The City of Lakeside will lose out on over \$200,000.00 a year for sewer fees.

If they close this facility permanently it will be gone FOREVER, the Department of Corrections does not own the land. Millions will be lost on a building that is just sitting there empty.

A salary wage job with excellent benefits giving families enough money to spend in our local community to boost our local economy is what Shuttters Creek does for Coos County. Shuttters Creek is one of the top five biggest employers in our community. Roughly 87 families would be leaving Coos County to seek careers elsewhere. Many staff members have built a career with Shuttters Creek

and can't afford to start a new career elsewhere in our community forcing them to make the decision to leave behind their family and this community. Coos County will have a loss of jobs, money spent back into community, and a loss of property taxes.

I urge you, no I am BEGGING you to please please stand up for us and help us fight to save our facility. Our budget needs balanced but closing down prisons will not get us there. Closing a facility is so much more than that. You will be closing down an entire community.

Thank you for your time. Lindsey Peterson

Subject: STOP - closure of Shutter Creek and Warren facilities!
Date: Tuesday, July 21, 2020 7:36:58 PM

STOP. PLEASE DO NOT CONSIDER THESE closures. Both facilities are a benefit to those inmates that are held there, important positions by individuals that are employed, and all those programs that help both inside and outside - especially the fire fighting and JOY puppy programs.

Warner Creek Correctional Facility (WCCF) is a minimum-security facility located four miles northwest of Lakeview. WCCF opened in September 2005. It received the State Energy Efficiency Design 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. This is a shining example for Oregon to other states.

Shutter Creek Correctional Institution (SCCI) was acquired from the U.S. General Services Administration at NO COST to Oregon taxpayers in January 1990, this former Air National Guard radar station near North Bend has been converted into a 302-bed minimum-security prison. SCCI consists of 56 acres containing 20 buildings surrounded by forest land.

Inmates at SCCI are minimum custody inmates within four years of release who qualify for minimum custody. Inmates work on the institution site in the physical plant, kitchen and dining hall, warehouse, receiving and discharge laundry, landscaping, and as facility orderlies, and members of the SCCI fire department. Inmates also work on outside crews, primarily with the Department of Forestry, providing services throughout the year and as trained wildland firefighters. During the fire season, SCCI inmates are available for use in fighting wildland fires and providing fire camp support throughout the state.

SCCI is also a regional re-entry facility for the counties of Coos, Curry, Douglas, Lane, Jackson, and Josephine. Minimum custody inmates who are nearing the end of their sentence and will be releasing to one of these six counties will typically be transferred to SCCI to participate in programming for release.

Programs and Services offered at SCCI: Shutter Creek:

Education/GED

Transition Programs

Pathfinders and Parenting

On and Offsite Work Programs

Wildland Fire and Camp Support Crews

Religious Services

Alcoholic and Narcotics Anonymous

Incentive Housing

Joys of Living Assistance Dogs Programs

Structural Firefighting Training

This facility is a big benefit to Southern Oregon and both facilities serve the purpose of putting inmates back into productive lives and spreading over several counties.

These inmates don't need to be in bigger correctional institutes mixed with more risk inmates. They need support from their environment and outside connections for successful reintroduction in society.

During this time of COVID the inmates have been void of all contact with the outside visits and most contacts. Funding with the CARES act and HERO's act are up and down but these areas to try and get a break on the budget are not where we should be looking.

And schools are not going to be forgotten by the Federal stimulus either.

Do not close these facilities, please.

Thank you
Tacy Andersen



Subject: Testimony against closing 2 Oregon Prisons
Date: Thursday, July 23, 2020 9:02:46 AM

Good morning Senators and Representatives, I would like to make a statement about the closing of 2 Oregon prisons.

The fact that the State of Oregon is considering closing 2 minimum security prisons for budgetary reasons is beyond heart wrenching. By closing these prisons, the State of Oregon would be destroying these communities financially, destroying the lives of dedicated hard working state employees as well, and potentially cause us to overcrowd our other prisons trying to house the more than 700 Adults in Custody from those prisons closing and further exacerbate the potential for Covid 19 exposure within our prisons. As an employee of the Oregon Department of Corrections for over 29 years, at 4 different prisons, including time spent in management, I have never seen the Department of Corrections as wasteful with money as they are today. The mismanagement of taxpayer funds is beyond egregious! DOC's mismanagement of funds is going to cost good hard working Oregonians their livelihoods as well as have a horrible effect on the communities that they come from.

The Executive Management Team for the Oregon Department of Corrections has needlessly added positions as a reckless pace for many years now and scoffed at any attempts to save money.

For example:

Creating the Correctional Case Management Unit 2 years ago with a 1 million dollar budget to start and then continuing with over \$350,000 per year in payroll and benefit packages"

Turning down the Unions attempt to help them save \$6.5 million dollars in federal funds by furloughing employees one day per week through the Cares Act.

Mismanaging the Medicare reimbursements, costing the taxpayers \$1.5 million dollars

The Oregon Department of Corrections spends over \$1 million dollars per month on overtime, when it is not necessary.

Approximately 3 years ago, the Inspector Generals Office had 1 Principle Executive Manager E, which makes well over \$100,000 per month, not including benefits. The IG's office now has 4 of those people making that much.

The Department of Corrections is adding Assistant Directors and Executive Level Managers at a feverish pace that all make over \$100,000 per year, not including benefits, equaling millions of dollars per year in payroll.

The department has brought on a staggering number of managers who don't oversee anyone in the past few years, and who get paid a significant salary.

Here is an example of total waste: In 2019, one of the areas within ODOC scheduled a meeting in Ontario Oregon, instead of scheduling that meeting in Salem, Oregon. This caused the Department to send 23 staff from the Salem area to Ontario, with per diem and hotels, when if they would have had that meeting in Salem, they would have had to have 5 people travel to

Salem.

ODOC spends millions of dollars per year Transporting AIC's around the state for no reason at all or because a Lt. or Captain gets tired of them at their current place.

ODOC has spent a significant amount of money on the Norway Project and the Oregon Way, with really nothing to show for it so far.

This is just a snapshot of the millions of dollars per year of incredibly wasteful budgetary actions of the Oregon Department of Corrections that could lead to the closure of these two prisons and the destruction of the livelihood of hundreds, if not thousands of Oregonians.

At what point do we bring some financial accountability back to the Oregon Department of Corrections.

Thank you,

Robert W. Hillmick

Statewide Security-Plus President, AFSCME Local 2376

Subject: Testimony
Date: Friday, July 24, 2020 11:21:47 AM

My name is Roger Ware I currently work for Oregon AFSCME for the last 6 years. I was a corrections officer for over 17 years, 12 of which were working at SCCI as an officer.

First off I would like to start by thanking co-chairs Senator Manning, and representative Sollman as well as the members of the committee.

I wanted to testify before you today on the proposed closures of two of the institutions for the Oregon Department of corrections. The legislation is considering closing Shutter Creek Correctional Institution (SCCI) as well as Warner Creek Correctional Facility (WCCF). I wanted to speak today specifically about the closure of SCCI, A lot of the topics in which I am going to cover also pertain to WCCF.

I was born and raised on the southern coast of Oregon for the majority of my life. I graduated high school from Reedsport Oregon, as did my mother, and after a stint in the military, I returned to my home only to find that the mill I had worked at prior to serving my country had been closed. I was then forced to relocate to Pendleton for employment. I was able to get employment with the Oregon Department of Corrections. After 6 years, I was finally able to return to my home where I lived in Coos Bay Oregon and I worked at SCCI, as a correctional officer, for more than 12 years.

Growing up in Reedsport my father was employed by Bohemia, a timber organization that had several mills and logging operations in the area. My family was also involved with the fishing industry. In the 1980's and 90's, the local area was devastated with the closure of most of the mills and a drastic reduction in the fishing industry as the fishing fleet was forced to relocate. I watched as the local small town I grew up in basically disappeared in front of me. It has taken almost 25 years for the area to recover slightly. If you close SCCI, it will further devastate the area farther. As a native of this area, I implore you to reconsider the option of closing SCCI.

I am sure that you have probably already heard testimony from various other people to include not only the employees of shutter creek but also the community leaders from the area. I do not want to repeat the points that they have all pointed out however there are a few points that I believe need to be made if they have not already.

First: if the legislation moves forward with their planned closure of SCCI as well as WCCF, they will not only be impacting the employees of these institutions, by forcing them to relocate to maintain their employment with DOC, but they will also be impacting the local communities in the area severely. The communities that surround both these institutions rely heavily upon the workers and their families for economic support. The workers and their families not only shop in these local communities but the family members, some of which were employed at communities, some of which are attending schools within the communities, some of which are on different community organization boards. By closing these institutions it would essentially mean that the employees and their families would have to sell their properties Relocate to different areas of the state where they

would have to once again try to buy residences set up schooling find jobs. This would cause a great economic impact to these communities.

Second: As to the closure of SCCI, this institution has several inmate work crews that go out into the communities to provide assistance to the community with landscaping, cleaning up of areas, or sustaining the natural resources of the area as well as other services. There are other organizations such as Coos forestry or the Oregon State Parks that depend heavily upon the work crews from this institution. By closing the institution it would affectively stop Department of Corrections from being able to provide this service to these areas. It would also coast individuals in these other organizations to also cut jobs from this already economically challenged area.

Third: the southern coast of Oregon has been decimated over the last 25 years with job loss. With both the fishing industry and the forest products industry being all but stopped or closed on the southern coast. I believe it to be irresponsible on the part of the state to remove a major employer from the area. Lakeview is the small town in southern Oregon where warner creek correctional institution is located. Since the construction and opening of the prison in this area the town's population has grown as well as the potential for family sustaining jobs in the area. Should the state decide to remove this institution from this area the economy of the local area will not be able to be sustained at its current level and will be drastically reduced?

Thank you

Roger Ware
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