

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.