

I believe that those serving their sentences, whether they were sentenced under measure 11 or not, should have an incentive for following the rules and being "model" inmates. Being able to occur "good-time" could become a big incentive for these inmates. SB191 creates this incentive and having it retroactive rewards not only people that are sentenced in the future, but also rewards inmates that may have already spend a lot of time being incarcerated. It would seem unfair if someone sentenced sometime this year got a reward for being good, following the rules and someone that has been incarcerated for a number of years to not also have that opportunity if their behavior has been stellar for all the time they have served.

Another consideration is the fact that it was reported that the State of Oregon is looking to close down 3 prisons over the next couple of years which could create overcrowding. If more inmates with good records are released early, this might free up beds that are needed for less worthy inmates or recently incarcerated. I have to believe that the state budget is also something that should be considered in this process. By letting inmates that have demonstrated the ability to follow the rules, stay out of trouble and show a desire to become good citizens, we can release those that are less likely to re-offend and thus save the state and tax payers money. I hope you will consider this opportunity.