

Lake County would like to see special funding to support Warner Creek Correctional Facility (WCCF). Lake County is a rural frontier county that has a difficult time attracting companies to our county due to location and distance from basic services that people like to frequently use such as airports, large shopping centers, major food chain restaurants and long drive times to other cities. Here are some of the key statistics that we are facing:

- The 108 employees add approximately \$7,200,000 annually to our economy in direct dollars
- These employees have 82 children in the Lakeview School District (10%)
- These employees have 9 children in the Paisley School District (10%)
- These employees own or rent 62 homes in Lakeview and Paisley
- The majority of our RV parks and house rentals are full. When the WCCF group leaves the community will have to absorb these additional utility costs
- Many more jobs throughout the community are supported by WCCF and by the purchases by WCCF employees which equates to over \$2 million generated annually

WCCF has proven to be a committed group of employees along with a community devoted to retention of employees and the facility is less than 16 years old and is the second newest prison in Oregon.

- Lake County currently has one of the lowest unemployment rates in Oregon. If WCCF were to close, those numbers could go back to 15-16% before the correctional facility became functional.

A unique story here in Lake County is our opportunity that we provide our students who wish to pursue additional education beyond the high school level. With our statistics mentioned above, we now have 91 students who potentially have the opportunity to qualify for the Daly Fund and the Collins McDonald Fund. These funds help pay tuition and books for students. Part of the requirement is that you have to attend a high school in Lake County for your final four years to qualify. By closing WCCF, these students may not get this great unique opportunity to have their higher education paid for. This ability to give back to our future leaders and to the state of Oregon would be a huge missed opportunity.

It is our sincere request that you please fund WCCF. This facility and jobs mean so much to our rural frontier community that is proudly a part of Oregon.

Thank you for your consideration.

Barry Shullanberger
Lake County Commissioner