

DEAR CO-CHAIRS AND MEMBERS OF THE COMMITTEE:

MY NAME IS ROBERT TSON. I AM A FORMALLY INCARCERATED YOUNG MAN WHO WAS HOUSED WITHIN OYA (OREGON YOUTH AUTHORITY) FOR 5 YEARS 10 MONTHS. I AM WRITING BECAUSE OF MY LIVED EXPERIENCE WITHIN THE CUSTODY OF OUR JUVENILE JUSTICE SYSTEM AND ON BEHALF OF MANY OTHERS. I STRONGLY SUPPORT YOUR CURRENT FUNDING AND ALL THE OPPORTUNITIES IT PROVIDES FOR OUR YOUNG MEN. TO AGREE TO THE ADDITIONAL FUNDING OYA IS REQUESTING ^{FOR} WILL BENEFIT AND BE ESSENTIAL TO IMPROVING THE SAFETY AND HEALTH OF OUR CURRENT ENVIRONMENT, FOR NOT ONLY YOUTH BUT STAFF INCLUDED.

THE PAST AND CURRENT LEVEL OF FUNDING TOWARDS OUR PROGRAMS, TRADE SKILL OPPORTUNITIES, FURTHER EDUCATION, AND STAFFING PLAYED AN EXTRAORDINARY ROLE IN MY TRANSFORMATION. THIS TOO INSTILLED A SENSE OF HOPE FOR A BETTER FUTURE FOR MYSELF & MY FAMILY INCLUDED. MAINTAINING THE SUPPORT FROM THE LEGISLATURE AND OTHER SERVICES IS KEY FOR THE SUCCESS OF OUR YOUNG MEN. THESE YOUNG MEN ARE OUR FUTURE INVESTING INTO THEM WILL CREATE AND PROVIDE THEM WITH THE OPPORTUNITIES TO

BECOME THE BEST THEM.

I APPRECIATE AND AM GRATEFUL FOR
THIS OPPORTUNITY TO GIVE MY
TESTIMONY.

RESPECTFULLY

-ROBERT TSON