



Oregon

Tina Kotek, Governor

Oregon Department of Corrections

Coffee Creek Correctional Facility

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To whom it may concern:

As you prepare to testify on behalf of the U-PACT program at the Oregon Legislature, I wanted to provide you with a perspective of the positive impact the program has had at CCCF.

While we get ready to start our 7th cohort, the program has continued to grow in interest, participation and commitment with every group. To be honest, the first few graduating classes were less than half of the participants with whom they started, the most recent graduating classes have included almost every participant who started the class.

The trades are not careers many women see themselves in. U-PACT gives the women the chance to prove to themselves not only is it something they can do, it is an opportunity for a career and a family wage-earning position they would not otherwise have considered. In addition, by providing them their first month's union dues, a full tool belt, and boots, U-PACT helps remove any financial impediments to starting work upon release.

There is not a U-PACT showcase, informational presentation, or graduation where current or former graduates don't speak to the changes this program has helped them realized. Whether it was learning math, finding physical strength they did not know they had, or finally believing in their capabilities and future, U-PACT has changed the lives of the women at Coffee Creek and their families in both measurable and immeasurable way.

Sincerely,

Christine Popoff

CCCF Assistant Superintendent for General Services