

**Slaughter, Christine (BOPP)**

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**Subject:**

FW: Feedback

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**From:** Ed Corrigan [mailto:corrigan@flathead.mt.gov]

**Sent:** Tuesday, July 09, 2013 11:19 AM

**To:** Slaughter, Christine (BOPP)

**Subject:** RE: Feedback

Good morning Christine:

This is the first time I have seen this e-mail and I do want to take this opportunity to present some input.

Over the course of my career (29 years or so), I have had the opportunity to appear before the Board on many occasions. I cannot think of a single case during which the Board members were anything but well informed and professional in their handling of the cases before them and in their dealings with the inmates seeking parole and their families. I have also been impressed with their commitment to reach decisions which are not only fair to the inmates, but also receptive to the concerns of law enforcement and the victims appearing before them.

In my opinion, concerns about the Board contributing to the need for additional prison beds is misplaced and short sighted. The Board's primary focus must be on whether the inmates appearing before them have taken the appropriate steps towards rehabilitation and whether they can be safely returned to a community setting. In those cases where the Board concludes an inmate is not ready for release, they must, of course, deny the request for parole regardless of whether that decision means a "bed" is unavailable to another prisoner.

Eliminating the Board is again, in my opinion, short sighted. Unless parole is eliminated as well, someone must review inmate requests for parole and determine whether granting parole is appropriate given the nature of the inmate's crime(s), his or her criminal history, whether he or she can be safely released, and the wishes of victims. The Board serves that purpose.

In my experience, the Board has served the needs of inmates and society admirably.

Please do not hesitate to let me know if you need something further from this office.

Ed Corrigan

Flathead County Attorney