April 03, 2013
Sen. Fred Dyson
SB 56

Senator Dyson,

I applaud someone taking the initiative to address a DOC that is bursting at the seams due to incarceration of non-violent criminals. The re-classification of certain crimes will enhance Corrections ability to focus on those individuals truly in need of incarceration and lesson the burden to the taxpayer. An additional step now utilized by most states is an expunction statute which allows felons that have not committed physical violent crimes to have their records expunged.

In doing so, there is a dramatic reduction in recidivism by these felons who are now enabled to secure work and not hindered by their non-violent felony record. The selection of those who would be applicable to expunction of course would be for non-physical violent first time felons that have successfully completed probation and have no re-occurring criminal issues. This often targets individuals that have no history of criminal activity and had a one-time error in judgment that will most likely never be repeated.

If interested, you might look at the State of Oregon's expunction statute given; it is within the same Supreme Court judicial district. I wish you luck in your endeavor.

Sincerely,

Mike Moore
Retired Law Enforcement & Corrections Officer