

**Mid-Willamette Homeless Initiative Task Force**  
**Public Comment**  
**September 20 – October 17, 2016**

**9/22/16**      **Victor Reppeto**

Comment below related to the Willamette Week article [Oregon Was About to Open a Second Women's Prison Because of 25 Inmates](#)

This article highlights the point I have made to the Taskforce repeatedly. The Courts are putting too many people in jail. This basic attitude toward incarceration needs to be curbed. Judges shout down defendants to keep them from making valid motions. Police are arresting and charging so many people the courts cannot process them all without undermining basic rights like the right to a speedy trial, accommodations for disabilities and allowing all relevant evidence to come to light. Public Defenders fail to document motions that are necessary for these faulty decisions to be properly vetted on appeal. If these motions are not documented they did not happen. Abusing millions of citizens across the country like this does not make our communities safer. This behavior represents state sponsored terrorism and the effect on our economy is crippling. The state of Oregon is already under censure by the Federal Government as of 2012 for abusing incarceration as an alternative to treatment for mental health issues. Oregon has yet to release prisoners sentenced for cannabis related offenses and this alone would make building a new prison unnecessary. Ignoring these problems will not make them go away.

**9/22/16**      **Jeff H.**

Interested in regulation of mobile home parks and use of recreational vehicles on private land. Following state and local reaction to this issue. Information from different agencies is conflicting. People should be allowed to stay in RVs on private land.

**10/4/16**      **Michael Mann**

Representing *Salem for All*, a group of interested citizens and coalition of participating organizations with the goal of being a resource of valuable and meaningful experiences for members of the Salem community by providing free or low cost tickets to people of low incomes. These opportunities are developed to allow all individuals to partake in the meaningful and fulfilling opportunities in Salem and the surrounding community. <http://salemforall.org/about-us/>