

Mark Munger
St. George
LD 178

Senator Beebe-Center, Representative Salisbury, and members of the Criminal Justice and Public Safety Committee,

Greetings. My name is Mark Munger and I live in St. George, Knox County. I am writing to you in strong support for LD 178 and the important and necessary effort to re-establish parole in Maine.

I have had the chance to work over time in the criminal justice systems in Denmark and Norway, in the Prison and Probation Services of the Ministry of Justice. The work has focused on solving problems in prisons and creating effective paths for incarcerated citizens to resume and build useful, productive and happy lives in their communities, with their families.

Both countries have well-established reputations for the ways in which they treat residents of state and local institutions and prepare them for their next stages of life. They spend much less money and resources than we do in the US and in Maine, and their results are far, far better, with low incarceration and recidivism rates.

Well-planned and administered parole is in an important element of their systems, and in the minds of public officials is an essential tool in the process of rehabilitation and re-entry.

Thank you for your work. I hope that citizens in Maine can count on your support for LD 178, as important step towards a more just society, for us all.

Sincerely,
Mark T. Munger