

January 19, 2026

Senator Carney, Representative Kuhn, and honorable members of the Judiciary Committee,

My name is Ross Adams and I currently reside in Machiasport at the Downeast Correctional Facility. I am writing in support of the Reinstatement of Parole and with suggestions for successful programs for release.

Anyone involved with DOC, directly or indirectly, knows the ongoing inauspicious issues with reentry and recidivism rates. What I would like you to know is that, God has blessed me with, besides gifts of service, teaching, and leadership: with two primary life skills, carpentry, and farming. It goes without saying these are two of the most important necessities of humanity.

My SCCP application essay referred to being of help to society instead of a burden. Imagine if instead of incarceration I was in the community (with a crew of three or four guys) I could have built two or three farmsteads in each of the last seven years... each farmstead accommodating up to a half dozen people.... I could have housed hundreds of people who would now be sustainably fed and housed. If we multiplied those teams with a cooperative of people in a growing apprenticeship program, that number could easily turn to thousands fed and housed. If such a program had been realized 50 years ago, with the gross increase of mass incarceration throughout the country, our housing and food insecurity problems could be nonexistent!!!

Maine's DOC does not rehabilitate most residents. Without such programs residents cannot gain the skills they need to be successful in the community. I have turned my life over to God and study His word. Both residents and correctional officers would benefit from a program where correctional officers acted as mentors and teachers and residents gained job and life skills.

Many residents, especially first time offenders, could easily qualify for the above described program. Limiting the cost of supervision by using trained entrepreneurs willing to take on apprentices would also be helpful. Building genuine life skills that giving residents an option, other than crime, to **earn a living should be a priority.**

I ask you to reinstate parole and use more of the MDOC budget to equip those who are released with jobs skills that lead to success.

Thank-you for your consideration,
Ross Adams