

To Ken Jeske:

My name is Richard. I am a lead at the OCE Print Shop.

I don't believe that doing away with OCE is an answer for prison reform.

It won't change the impact or length of mandatory minimum sentencing in prison, or the fact that there isn't good time offered, or any possible chance of early release for these men. It also doesn't change the fact that we incarcerate juveniles, the mentally impaired, or that the elderly are kept in prison doing unreasonable amounts of time.

I came to prison at thirty seven years of age and was sentenced to thirty six years, under measure eleven. I spent most of my life as an average person; I was married, owned my own home, had a child, and worked a steady job.

Then my drug and alcohol abuse lead to incarceration. Once incarcerated, I spent the next three years working for DOC in random, meaningless jobs, and to say the least, was miserable. You ask me whether or not OCE can do better job? Sure, I think OCE can do a better job at providing more job opportunities that give men marketable skills and education. We can always do better and should always try to do better.

I think OCE should always engage its work force and try to be cutting edge. Being an example for other States and DOC in general. OCE provides many opportunities; but have the ability to do so much more.

I've worked in the OCE Print Shop for fourteen years. I'm both grateful and proud to have a job that gives me a chance to live some semblance of a normal life and feel like a human being. The staff I've work for have always been very professional and given me a chance to grow and learn. When I started here I had minimal computer experience and no print experience, having spent my life in construction.

Now, every day, I've had a chance to learn more about a new industry and keep my skills sharp. I've learned several different aspects of the printing industry and I'm happy doing so. I could not have lasted with a job in the kitchen or pushing a broom in a hall way for thirty six years. Typical prison jobs.

I appreciate the concern of the community and am grateful for them wanting to see change in Oregon but let's work together.

Sincerely Yours,