

Citizens' Petition Regarding Personal Recognizance Bond Usage in Custer County Colorado

TO:

- The Honorable Jared Polis, Governor of Colorado
 - Stephanie Luck, State Representative for District 64 (*includes Custer County*)
 - Mark Baisley, State Senator for District 4 (*includes Custer County*)
 - Jeff Lindsey, District Attorney for the 11th Judicial District
 - Judges of Custer County
 - Custer County Commissioners
 - Republican and Democratic Candidates for Governor
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Citizens' Statement of Concern Regarding PR Bond Usage

We, the citizens of Custer County, are deeply troubled by what appears to be an excessive use of Personal Recognizance (PR) bonds in our community.

Our Specific Concerns Include:

- 1. Multiple arrests, same-day releases:** We have documented instances where individuals are arrested twice in a single day and released on PR bonds both times, undermining any immediate consequence for criminal behavior.
- 2. Bond revocation followed by immediate re-release:** We have observed cases where individuals arrested for bond revocation are subsequently released again on PR bonds, creating a revolving door that renders the original bond conditions meaningless.

These patterns raise serious questions about our justice system's commitment to public safety and its ability to provide meaningful deterrence against criminal activity. We understand this likely needs a legislative solution and is bigger than our own community.

The Impact on Our Community:

As law-abiding citizens, we are witnessing the erosion of consequences for criminal behavior, which deeply concerns us on multiple levels:

- **Officer morale:** We worry about the impact on our dedicated law enforcement officers who risk their safety to make arrests, only to see those same individuals back on the streets within hours with no tangible accountability.
- **Community confidence:** Our faith in the justice system's ability to protect us is being tested when arrests appear to result in immediate freedom rather than appropriate consequences.
- **Public safety:** We are experiencing an unsettling reality where it appears that the rights and convenience of those who commit crimes against our persons and property take precedence over the safety and security of law-abiding citizens.
- **Our Position:**

We are not advocating for punitive measures without due process, but we are calling for a justice system that takes criminal behavior seriously and provides meaningful deterrence. The current approach seems to prioritize the freedom of alleged offenders over the safety and peace of mind of the citizens they are accused of victimizing.

We deserve a community where criminal behavior has real consequences, where our law enforcement efforts are supported by appropriate judicial responses, and where citizens can feel confident that their safety and property rights are truly protected.

Our Request:

We respectfully request a thorough review of current PR bond policies and their implementation to ensure they serve the interests of justice and public safety. We ask for your leadership in addressing this critical issue that affects the safety and well-being of every family in our community.

We look forward to your response and to working together toward meaningful solutions that restore balance to our justice system.

Signed,

Lora Taylor, Jodie Richardson, Kristi Olds Gray, Richard Corage, Terri Watkins, Marcelle Lea Williamson, Sandy Hernandez, Peggi Collins, Lisa Lyon, Michelle Tate, Matt Gray, Smantha Gray,