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The Honorable Tina Kotek
Governor
State of Oregon
900 Court Street, Suite 254
Salem, OR 97301

July 20, 2023

Dear Governor Kotek,

Over the past several months, the bodies of several young women have been discovered throughout the Portland area – putting many Oregonians on high alert. Investigators have now officially [linked](#) four of the suspicious deaths to one person of interest. Although no one has been formally charged in this case, local [reporting](#) indicates that the main suspect is a repeat offender who was granted clemency by your predecessor, Governor Kate Brown. The suspect was one of over 1,000 inmates who were granted clemency and ended their prison sentence early under the former governor.

In light of these recent events, we write with deep concern for Oregonians' safety. It is no secret that the Portland area has already been experiencing a severe and dangerous crime crisis in recent years. 2021 and 2022 were the [deadliest years](#) in Portland's history, with both years soaring past the previous homicide record set in 1987. Overdose deaths in Oregon [tripled](#) between 2019 and 2021, and now, adolescents in our state are dying from drug overdoses at a [faster rate](#) than any other state.

The person of interest in the ongoing serial killer case has been [referred to](#) by the Multnomah County Sheriff's Office as a "prolific thief and career criminal." This individual has a history of burglary, injuring law enforcement, and has been charged with possession of a stolen vehicle, meth, and several firearms. Despite this extensive and troubling record, and despite the Portland area facing an unprecedented onslaught of crime, Governor Brown proceeded with granting this person a conditional commutation without any other public input or feedback.

Understandably, this situation has left many Oregonians deeply concerned about the hundreds of clemencies granted by Governor Brown. As we work to decrease crime and restore safety for Oregonians, we urge you to review every single conditional commutation granted by Governor Brown to ensure no one is a victim of the former governor's reckless leniency. Additionally, we would like to work with you to determine a clear and transparent clemency procedure to ensure Oregonians have a say in the process.

We appreciate your attention to this matter, and we look forward to working together to keep Oregonians safe.

Sincerely,



Lori Chavez-DeRemer
Member of Congress



Cliff Bentz
Member of Congress