

Chairman Lakey, members of the committee. My name is Kevin Mickelson, General Manager for Idaho Correctional Industries. I would like to start the Idaho Correctional Industries presentation in support of S1045 will statements from current and past trainees and one of our community partners. S1045.

The State of Idaho currently has more people incarcerated that we can house, with more than 700 people out of state. IDOC Director Tewalt has pointed out that more than 70% of those sentenced to term are people that have been incarcerated before.

ICI is a training program designed to give offenders the opportunity for success after release.

According to the National Correctional Industries Association, the national recidivism rate is 39%. If you factor in involvement in a correctional industries program, that number falls to 22%. That equates to an increase of 17 people per 100 release that don't return to custody.

A 2015 Washington State Institute for Public Policy study concluded, for every \$1 spent in CI programs \$4.77 is saved in future criminal justice costs due to reductions in recidivism. ICI is self-funded, meaning that the \$1 doesn't come from the General Fund.

Other benefits of Correctional Industries Include:

Life skills enhancement and technical training

Reduction of idealness

Reduction of the costs of incarceration

The amount transferred to IDOC due to the ICI AG Program for Room and Board, Security, and transportation:

FY 2018 **\$1,127,000**

First half FY 2019 (July – December) AG program **\$900,000**

The amount paid to the State Victim Compensation Fund from the ICI Ag Program

FY 2018 **\$124,929**

First Half FY 2019 (July – December) AG program **\$110,852**

Trainees Stipends

First Half FY 2019 (July – December) AG program **\$741,660**

Agriculture is the backbone of the Idaho economy. Idaho is facing a major labor shortage in the agriculture industry. The Department of Labor expects this labor shortage for the foreseeable

future, even if there is a downturn in the economy. Employment is imperative for successful reentry for our offenders after release. I think it is prudent to expose and train as many people as possible in areas of need. The ICI Agriculture Training Program for perishable food products has been very successful, as stated by Mr. Cherry from CS Beef. We have the opportunity to bring these training programs and opportunities to all agricultural commodities, thus strengthening Idaho's agriculture community and at the same time reducing recidivism.

I can stand in front of this committee and talk recidivism rates, training hours, training stipends and financials all day long. Mr. Cherry can talk about stabilization of the workforce. But this is about people. This is about Taja, Tiana, Motu and thousands more that are in the care and custody of The Great State of Idaho.

This bill will create a path for more offenders to have the opportunity to provide for their families and successfully reenter our communities.

I ask for your support on S1045.

Thank you for your time.

I will stand for questions.