



BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

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March 17, 2022

The Honorable Kate Brown
Office of the Governor
900 Court Street NE, Suite 254
Salem, OR 97301-4047

RE: Commutation Petition of Lynley Rayburn

Dear Governor Brown,

The murder of Dale Rost III shocked our community and changed the lives of his family and friends forever. On December 23, 2005, Dale Rost's daughter found his body outside of his home after he failed to arrive for a family Christmas party. Dale had been stripped naked, humiliated, robbed, abused and shot in the head. An investigation later uncovered that Lynley Rayburn and A.J. Smith were responsible for his brutal murder and Ms. Rayburn played a critical role in this crime. Ms. Rayburn was sentenced to life in prison with eligibility for parole after 25 years.

We are aware of the clemency request you have received with regard to Ms. Rayburn. This request has caused the family and friends of Dale Rost considerable pain and heartache. Not only are they reliving the worst day of their lives, they are also forced to wonder each day whether the woman who murdered their loved one will be allowed to walk free.

Yamhill County District Attorney Brad Berry wrote to you on August 2, 2021 regarding the clemency petition for Ms. Rayburn. Mr. Berry is intimately aware of the facts of this case, as he handled the process from investigation to sentencing. We support Mr. Berry's position that Lynley Rayburn be denied clemency and we echo his concerns about Ms. Rayburn's lack of accountability for her actions.

On behalf of the family and friends of Dale Rost, some of whom are Yamhill County employees, we ask that you deny the commutation request for Lynley Rayburn. Ms. Rayburn was given a sentence that was fair and appropriate given the violent nature of this crime.

We support District Attorney Brad Berry's position on this issue, and most importantly, we stand with Dale Rost's family and friends who are waiting in anguish to see if justice prevails.

Respectfully,

Lindsay Berschauer
Chair

Casey Kulla
Vice-Chair

Mary Starrett
Commissioner

Accepted by Yamhill County
Board of Commissioners on
3/17/22 by Board Order
22-83