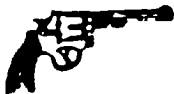


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GUNN & ASSOCIATES

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March 4, 1994

U.S. Sentencing Commission
One Columbus Circle, N.E., Ste. 2-500
Washington, D.C. 20002-8002
Attn: Public Information

To whom it may concern,

The law dictating the use of mandatory sentencing in non-violent crimes must be reconsidered. First time offenders, without criminal history are punished much more severely than violent habitual criminals.

As an American citizen and taxpayer, I resent the tax liability and attitude taken by judicial law makers in this situation. I believe that our money could be better allocated to the benefit of humanity. This would be done by treating the violent criminal more harshly than the non-violent element.

As I understand mandatory sentencing was directed towards the war on drugs. I think that most Americans feel that the current approach to the war on drugs is not effective and will never be.

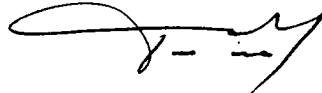
Many non-violent first time drug offenders are good productive citizens, whom have made a serious mistake. Due to mandatory sentencing they are sitting in over crowded medium security institutions. Costing taxpayers millions of dollars, when perhaps a strong reprimand, large fine, enforced community service, and public humiliation could well address the felon. Along that same line, they should be forced to have continued employment, and pay their fair share of the tax base requirements of our country.

I feel that non-violent first time offenders should be excluded from mandatory sentencing laws. Especially in the area where misdemeanor crosses the line to a felony. Any and all sentencing changes should be retroactive.

[51]

Americans want a proper perspective in the laws governing criminal sentencing, not an unbalanced costly program allowing violent felons easy access back into the community. And hard working non-violent tax paying felons being neutralized through lengthy incarceration, and perhaps endangering the development of American families and their prospects.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'Tom Gunn', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Tom Gunn
Gunn & Associates

TG:scm