



STOP THE Uinta County Immigration Prison

EMAIL: CONTACT@WYOSAYNO.COM
WEBSITE: WYOSAYNO.COM

As Wyoming business leaders, we stand in opposition to the proposed private immigration prison in Uinta County. Our reasons for opposing CoreCivic are numerous, the harmful environments private prisons have created to ensure their existence, the increase in risk to which CoreCivic will subject our small communities, and the deleterious impact an immigration prison will have on teachers, students and consumers in Uinta County, and southwest Wyoming.

CoreCivic’s poor reputation is widely known and has been covered repeatedly in national newspapers. CoreCivic is guilty of forced labor, neglect, lack of health care, and deaths of detainees-including children. As business owners, we understand behavior like this is evidence of toxic corporate culture, poor or inept management, and long-term practices that lead employees to believe that unethical behavior is acceptable to their employer. When we apply for the various permits and licenses required to operate our businesses in Wyoming, we agree that we are a community asset. CoreCivic will certainly not be a community asset.

As business owners, we also recognize that private prison companies like CoreCivic create an extremely harmful feedback loop by supporting legislation that promotes higher incarceration rates, and through contracts with local governments that require taxpayer dollars to cover any fees if minimum “lock-up quotas” are not met. This is also done through contracts that leave the taxpayer to foot the bill when minimum lock-up quotas are not met. They are not like other businesses in Wyoming such as bars, restaurants, retailers and even our heavy industry. Our businesses seek to encourage community pride, communication, participation, and opportunity, whereas CoreCivic seeks to divide and imprison members of our community and our workforce.

In addition to prisons lowering property values over time, companies like CoreCivic have decimated rural communities around the country first by siphoning workers away from businesses with deep community roots into menial jobs with high turnover rates. This leads to things like closure of local businesses and drops in the tax base that our towns desperately need to survive. Private prison companies have abandoned rural communities entirely when changes in the White House have meant changes in immigration enforcement, their source of income adding to economic hardships and putting workers out of jobs. Bringing CoreCivic to Wyoming means that we will further pin the economic future of our small towns on the whims of the federal government. These are not Wyoming values.

Finally, we as business owners acknowledge the changing demographics of Wyoming and the need to welcome all into our community. Data from the Wyoming Department of Education provides a key example of this: in Uinta County there was a marked decrease of close to 20% in student population between 1998 and 2017. However, there was an increase of over 150% in the number of Latino students over the same time. Wyoming is changing, and alienating people who have come to Wyoming to work, raise their families and go to school would result in a steep loss of school funding for the area and could mean layoffs for over 100 teachers. An immigration prison in the area could destroy the trust of Wyoming’s newest residents. What would the loss of this consumer confidence do to Wyoming? What would the loss of over 100 stable, meaningful, good paying jobs do to Uinta County?

We as Wyoming business owners stand united in saying no to the private immigration prison, not only for ourselves but for those who worked hard and sacrificed to raise families and start businesses in Wyoming. The ones who cannot speak out due to fear, fear of losing everything. We in Wyoming don’t believe hard working families should have to go through that.

We call on all of Wyoming to join us and say no to the Uinta County private immigration prison.

Signed:

Signature

Business name

Printed Name

Contact Email