

**Brian Schweitzer**  
**96 Piney Point Road**  
**Anaconda, Montana 59711**

September 19, 2013

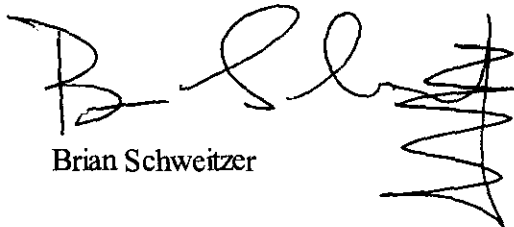
Hon. Chairman Mike McKee  
Board of Pardons and Parole  
Deer Lodge, MT

Dear Chairman and Members of the Board:

I am writing in support of Barry Beach's clemency application. Having observed Mr. Beach's efforts at achieving his release from prison for almost a decade now, I believe that he should not be incarcerated. His trial was sparsely supported with evidence, there was no physical evidence tying him to the murder, there are questions about the validity of his confession, and at trial the prosecutor referenced evidence during his opening statement that he never produced. This today would be held as prosecutorial misconduct and grounds for a mistrial. And recently, a highly respected Montana Judge found Mr. Beach's conviction deeply problematic, and vacated it and ordered Mr. Beach released, and Mr. Beach was free and behaved in an exemplary fashion.

Mr. Beach was 17 years old when he was given a 100 year sentence with no possibility of parole. I believe that there has always been sufficient doubt as to his culpability so that the sentence he received is disproportionately severe, excessive, and simply unnecessary. And the United States Supreme Court recently ruled such sentences (life without parole) to be unconstitutional when issued to a minor. He has now served 30 years, and does not need to be incarcerated further.

Sincerely,

  
Brian Schweitzer