

Day of Solidarity with Jeff Free Luers and all Eco-Prisoners

June 2009 - Eugene, Oregon

Statement by Jeff's father, John Luers

Judy and I will always remember all the folks in Eugene have done for us with much gratitude during our long painful journey toward this day. From the day of Jeff's arrest June 16, 2000, until now you have always been there for us and Jeff. Every time we came to Eugene, someone among you held some type of gathering in one of your homes where we could find comfort in the present and hope for the future by just being among you and sensing your warmth and support.

During the first trial, you joined us in court daily, as we collectively watched Ken Morrow and Brian Barnes successfully whittled away at the prosecution's case. We remember the day Velure decided our collective presence in the hall "disturbed the jury" and ordered us to the opposite end of the hall. You shared our devastation and gave us comfort when, on the 5th day of trial, Ken suddenly passed away.

During the second trial, your support was unwavering as once again your comforting presence surrounded us each trial day. You were as shocked and dismayed as we were when Velure found Jeff guilty of virtually everything. Then came the final indignity of Velure trying to conduct the sentencing in a closed courtroom in the county jail, fearful of how the community would react.

The annual day of solidarity with Jeff started here and spread around the world. Those events kept Jeff's case in the public eye as his case wound its way through the appeals process, with Jeff's sentence finally being overturned on February 14, 2007. For those of you not yet aware of it, Justice in America comes with a very high financial burden. The funds raised at these annual events made it possible for us and Jeff, with Lauren Regan's and Shawn Wiley's capable assistance, to put together a fine legal team to handle the resentencing mandated by the appeals court.

Today, our family celebrates Jeff's impending release with you, forever grateful for all you have done for us in lightening our burden these last 10 years.