

Dear Judge Cooper,

My name is Stevie Jick, I've been friends with Noah Bacon since childhood and I wanted to weigh in on his upcoming sentencing. Noah and I grew up exploring the forest, being silly and contemplating the universe together. He has always been a peaceful person, devoted to yoga, meditation, and spirituality. As kids in the new age of social media, political radicalization and infinite information it was also easy to fall into patterns of mental health issues and social isolation. It takes a long time to figure things out in this life, but I believe that Noah is finding his way. In the last year he has been especially proactive about reconnecting with family, friends, finding steady work, and trying to improve his life and others' lives around him.

I was honestly a bit shocked to learn of what happened on Jan 6th, and understand the need for consequences. However, I would ask that these consequences be in the name of furthering that sense of connection, community and peace. Allow him to continue this journey of self betterment and remain a part of the community- for his sake, and also for the sake of the community itself- his family, friends, employers, clients. We love Noah and value him. And those that truly know him would understand how prison would only serve to perpetuate the violence that we all want to end in this country. As a member of his community I ask that he be allowed to stay and make amends from within it- community service, yoga lessons, group therapy, nature walks, drug awareness, you name it. He is a human, like all of us who are capable of getting lost and making mistakes, but he is also capable of great things, and redeeming himself. The idea of using prison, further isolation, archaic punishment as a means of reconciliation and justice is more horrifying than anything Noah is capable of. Please allow him to stay and continue the work he has been putting into himself and the people around him.

thank you,

Stevie Jick