MESSAGE FROM CHERYL BURNS
PRESIDENT & CEO BAIL USA

THIS IS A CALL TO ACTION! Please read this letter and join me in standing against forces of division and abolition.

As many of you know, I have launched a new web show called "Coffee with Cheryl". In these difficult and important times for the bail industry, this segment is my opportunity to speak to each and every one of you directly. I'd encourage all of you to watch my interview with Mary Ellen Pollack, a Colorado bail agent who had the courage to stand up and run for office. Her exciting campaign, which I fully support, is a clarion call to all of us to get more involved and to make a difference. There is another "Coffee with Cheryl" segment that has been posted after the signatures were taken to the Office of the Secretary of State in Colorado. Please watch my interview with Dusty Millett who was instrumental in obtaining the signatures for the ballot initiative. Remember a ballot initiative is the will of the people and does not require the signature of the Governor. If the people of Colorado vote in favor of the initiative it immediately becomes law that violent felony criminals should not be released with taxpayers dollars.

Like all of you I read the websites of Pretrial Justice Institute, also know as PJL, and the National Association Pretrial Service, or NAPSA, religiously. I knew that they looked at our industry as a dinosaur that they wanted to dismantle. I was at a loss for what to do for bail agents everywhere. While I struggled to determine the best course to fight for the survival of bail, I became more and more frustrated with the tired old legislative fights between surety, cash, and property (Professional) bail agents. Why would anyone in our industry wish to fan the flames of these old conflicts when bail agents across the United States see their business dwindling and are fighting for their survival? I realized that the industry needed leadership that would reject the same tired old conflicts and work to focus attention on the true fight ahead the fight against pretrial release, over use of OR release, and deposit bail.

During the last five years I listened to many bail agents complain about their vanishing business. It was not until I met Mike Donovan and Richard Moore with the Virginians for the Preservation of Bail that I understood what was happening.

Pretrial Release activists for more than 30 years have been advancing legislation and regulatory changes that limit bail and promote supervised release, own Recognizance release and Deposit Bail. What most did not realize was that pretrial release activists were dismantling our industry slowly but surely.

I am happy to also announce to you that because of your input nationwide we have expanded our Government Affairs Department. We now not only have Pat Edmundson working for you in various states to create great legislative changes, but we also now have John LaCombe coming on board to help you. We have had calls for help from bail agents located in Connecticut, Ohio, Nevada, Washington, New Jersey, Florida, South Carolina, Maryland, California and Minnesota.

My vision for bail is clear. My commitment is to the independent bail agent and therefore I resigned our seat on the American Bail Coalition. Our fight is for the bail agent, and WE MUST marshal our resources to support the preservation of bail. We must fight for our bail agents, and consolidating our efforts behind Americans for the Preservation of Bail and our own Government Affairs Division will enable us to more effectively wage that fight.

Bail USA continues to fight for bail agents nationwide and preserve the industry we all love.