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Chief Justice Barbara Madsen  
PO Box 40929  
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**Supporting Amendment of CrR 4.11**

Dear Chief Justice Madsen

Please consider this note in support of the proposed amendment to CrR 4.11, allowing the recording of victim & witness interviews in criminal cases.

As director of a public defender agency with severe budget challenges, I much prefer the economy of a digital recorder to the financial and scheduling burden of arranging investigators or reporters to take notes and testify in court.

As a trial attorney, I have too often seen courtroom proceedings devolve to unproductive and distracting argument about who said what in an interview, instead of who did what on the day of the alleged crime.

The rule as proposed would rectify both of these problems, alone justifying its adoption. In addition, the rule has undergone exceptionally thorough commentary and vetting by other interest groups, and there is a growing consensus that traditional discovery rules regarding custody of materials, etc., adequately address the privacy and security issues raised earlier.

Respectfully,

John T. Rodgers  
Spokane County Public Defender