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To Whom it may concern:

My name is Brandon Leal, and I'm currently in the U.S.P. Tucson Challenge Program. I met Mr. Ulbricht just a handful of times before, but I feel I didn't get to know him until I started this 12-18 month program. We are asked to do a lot here, and one thing is to put together a team of participants to help guide you, point out blind spots, and hold you accountable. I asked Mr. Ulbricht to be on my team since he was further along in his treatment and believing he would and could challenge me to work on my treatment. One of the issues I have been working on in my life-long resentments and control issues. Mr. Ulbricht has helped me see a different path and how holding resentments hurts and only inhibits myself. We also have meaningful conversations where he provides good thoughtful feedback. Ulbricht hosts a nightly meditation hour, which has helped me begin and maintain a daily meditation practice. I believe he truly does want to help others and see them succeed when I see him tutor other community members with their studies. For this reason, he has been asked to be on the mediation committee to help resolve conflicts.

As an example of admitting one's faults, I've seen Mr. Ulbricht stand in front of the whole community, on a microphone, and talk about his failings, and how he wants to make amends. That's the heart of it all. I believe, if given another chance, Mr. Ulbricht would do his best to help those around him, as he has helped me and others in prison.

Thank you for taking the time to read this.

B Leal