

Many want arsonist set free **KXL Portland, June 13, 2005**

Around the country, hundreds of people have signed a petition supporting Jeff Luers, aka, Free.

[\[Click here to listen to this story\]](#)

An admitted arsonist sitting in the Oregon State Penitentiary is being called everything from terrorist to a hero. Around the country, hundreds of people have signed a petition supporting Jeff Luers, aka, Free. According to Pamela Reber, Free is "a political prisoner." She's part of a group called "Friends of Free," who said Luers has done his time. "There was only \$40,000 in damage that occurred in the Romania fire."

Five years ago, Luers set a fire at the Romania Chevrolet in Eugene that destroyed a pickup and damaged two SUVs. It was a political statement, a protest of large gas guzzling, pollution spewing vehicles. He was sentenced to 23 years in prison, which Reber said is far more than is often handed down to violent criminals. "It's ridiculous that a passionate, intelligent individual that actually cared, is serving 23."

But hang on, said Kelly Stoner. "Most people take it easy on the eco-terror movement because nobody's been killed yet." Stoner is with the group Stop Eco Violence, and said torching vehicles is eco-terrorism, and that those who support Luers are dangerous. "They believe that his motive or intentions were pure and for a cause and that he should be excused from staying in jail."

Stoner points out that it's only a matter of time until the eco-terrorism movement starts to hurt or even kill people.