

August 12, 2008

Senator Jeff Schoenberg Co-Chairman
Representative Rich Myers Co-Chairman
Commission on Government
Forecasting and Accountability
703 Stratton Office Building
Springfield, IL 62706



RE: Pontiac Prison Closure

Dear Senator Schoenberg and Representative Myers,

Please accept this letter as my opposition to the potential closing of the Pontiac Correctional Center. The closing of this facility will have a long and detrimental impact on quite a few of members of my family and especially on our communities.

On a personal side of this closure, 4 immediate family and relatives currently work at the facility. Each of them grew up in Pontiac and have called Pontiac home most if not all of their lives. They have dedicated their entire working career to the Pontiac Correctional Center, which could now potentially be eliminated by the actions of the Governor. They each have families and all are homegrown Pontiac residents. They have supported the local economy for many years. Other opportunities within the area may not be available to provide a decent living for their families, if this facility is indeed closed. In addition to these individuals, the Pontiac Correctional Center was the primary employment for my mother & father, aunt and uncle and another cousin prior to their retirements. It has been part of my family's lives for many years.


Regarding Livingston County and the City of Pontiac, this closure would have a long and lasting negative impact on our communities. As reported in the Economic Impact Analysis, Livingston County would have an impact of \$26 million and up to \$45 million in the 4 county region. This impact would be devastating to Livingston County and the City of Pontiac. The loss of tax dollars of this magnitude would negatively impact our City Government, schools and local businesses.

Additionally, the real estate market would be heavily impacted. Currently there are 171 employees with an address of Pontiac, IL according to the data provided by the State, which represents home owners as well as renters. In a market that is already feeling the impact of the potential closure, this could have a real impact on market values in our communities. Again this impacts our city government and schools. Current home owners that are not employed by the Correctional Center would be negatively impacted by the closure due to declining property values, and potentially increased tax rates by all government and schools that rely on the assessed values as their source of revenue.

According to AFSCME's response to the DOC report, the prison system is overcapacity at this time. If that is the case, the State needs to find a way to keep Pontiac Correctional Center open AND open Thomson Correctional Center.

It would be appreciated by many businesses, schools, City Governments and especially the staff of Pontiac Correctional Center to receive your support and recommend that the Pontiac Correctional Center remain open.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Roger R. Corrigan".

Roger R Corrigan
644 S Locust St
Pontiac, IL 61764

August 6, 2008



Senator Jeff Schoenberg - Co-Chairman
Representative Rich Meyers - Co-Chairman
Commission on Government
Forecasting and Accountability
703 Stratton Office Building
Springfield, IL 62706

Dear Senator Schoenberg and Representative Meyers:

Please re-consider this issue of closing Pontiac Prison. By now you have seen a lot of effort go into trying to make this not happen. The areas surrounding the prison have taken many steps to show the support to keeping the prison open. The town have signs, people adorning the shirts, they held a parade with a lot of support, a town picture was taken, many meetings have been held and a lot of praying. We need the Pontiac Prison to remain open. The facts have not proven beyond a reasonable doubt that it should close. Please take the time, weigh out all options and make the right decision,

Sincerely,

Mr & Mrs Leland D. Wycoff
P.O. Box 306
Forrest, IL 61741



BANK of PONTIAC



H. Wayne Taylor
300 W. Washington St.
Pontiac, IL 61764

August 20, 2008

Representative Rich Myers
Co-Chairman, Commission on Government Forecasting and Accountability
703 Stratton Office Building
Springfield, IL 62706

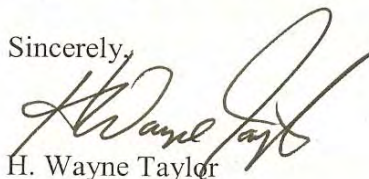
Dear Representative Myers:

We are writing to express my concern for the plan to close the Pontiac Correctional Center and would ask you take a moment to consider why. Pontiac Correctional Center is the second largest employer in Pontiac and Livingston County. The closure would have a devastating impact on the community of Pontiac, Livingston County and Central Illinois. Our community has had very little growth over the last several years and the loss of such an important institution would have a devastating economic impact. Currently there are 44% of students in the Pontiac grade school district receiving free or reduced cost lunches, underscoring the already poor economic conditions that exist here.

We feel for the employees that would either lose their jobs or be uprooted to find a new home in another location in the midst of depressed housing prices, high gas prices and the overall depressed economic outlook.

We thank you for your consideration in this matter and would ask that you give us the opportunity to continue on.

Sincerely,



H. Wayne Taylor

HWT:mb

MAIN BANK
300 W. Washington St.
P.O. Box 710
Pontiac, IL 61764-0710
Phone 815/844-6155
Fax 815/842-2977

ODELL BANK
200 S. Waupansie St.
P.O. Box 350
Odell, IL 60460-0350
Phone 815/998-2131
Fax 815/998-2431
www.bankofpontiac.com

WEST BANK
1703 W. Reynolds St.
P.O. Box 72
Pontiac, IL 61764-0072
Phone 815/842-1069
Fax 815/842-1705



P.R.O.U.D.

Pontiac Redeveloping Our United Downtown

ILLINOIS MAIN STREET COMMUNITY

August 2008

Commission on Government
Forecasting and Accountability
703 Stratton Office Building
Springfield, Illinois 62706



Dear Sirs,

My name is William Alvey, and currently, I am President of the Pontiac Main Street Organization called P.R.O.U.D. (Pontiac Redeveloping Our United Downtown). We are celebrating twenty years of working to make Pontiac a better community. As you can expect, we would be very much opposed to the closing of the Pontiac Correctional Center (P.C.C). The loss of families would almost completely destroy the work of the past twenty years in keeping an active and vital downtown. We are a group who has worked through the Lt. Governor's office for many years. Also, over the years, we have had a great relationship with the P.C.C. Officials, and many prison employees are volunteers for our program.

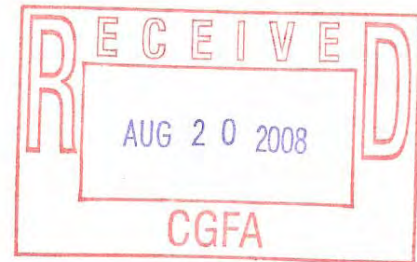
Most of the businesses in our community would be forced to do major cut backs, including our downtown group. We could see schools affected...many stores would likely be forced to close their doors. In times of hard economic conditions, like the ones we are facing now, we all understand the need to make cuts. Taking a facility like the P.C.C. and moving its economic base out of this area would force cuts to area schools, local services, retail businesses, and take away valued members of our community. When based on the total impact of closing, the proposed savings seems almost unjustifiable.

On a more personal note, my father was the Assistant Warden at P.C.C. for nearly twelve year, until 1971, when he had to take a health-leave. I was quite familiar with the prison and many of the families that have worked there. I would say most are proud to work there and feel totally safe at this facility. I would, also say, the memory of the people who have given their lives doing their duty, would be defiled by closing the P.C.C. We know times have changed, but without some major justification, the thought of Pontiac without the Pontiac Correctional Center is a concept that is just too difficult to visualize.

Sincerely,

William Alvey, President
Pontiac Main Street Organization (P.R.O.U.D)

August 6, 2008



Senator Jeff Schoenberg - Co-Chairman
Representative Rich Meyers - Co-Chairman
Commission on Government
Forecasting and Accountability
703 Stratton Office Building
Springfield, Il 62706

Dear Senator Schoenberg and Representative Rich Meyers:

I am writing to you at this time concerning the topic of closing of Pontiac Prison. I ask as a citizen of Pontiac that you rethink this matter. The impact on the community way out weighs the money saved by the state (as they say). The prison is a viable establishment and can be run for several years. The impact of closing the prison would hit from the employees working there all the way to our school systems. As I see it would benefit more to keep it open, and use the other prisons as a place to handle some of the over crowding. Please re-consider closing the prison.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Dew Aish". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, prominent "D" at the beginning.

August 6, 2008



Senator Jeff Schoenberg - Co-Chairman
Representative Rich Meyers - Co-Chairman
Commission on Government
Forecasting and Accountability
703 Stratton Office Building
Springfield, Il 62706

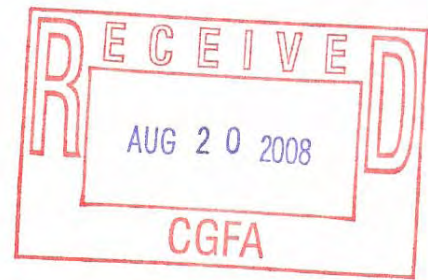
Dear Senator Schoenberg and Representative Rich Meyers:

I am writing to you at this time concerning the topic of closing of Pontiac Prison. I ask as a citizen of Pontiac that you rethink this matter. The impact on the community way out weighs the money saved by the state (as they say). The prison is a viable establishment and can be run for several years. The impact of closing the prison would hit from the employees working there all the way to our school systems. As I see it would benefit more to keep it open, and use the other prisons as a place to handle some of the over crowding. Please re-consider closing the prison.

Sincerely,

Karen S. Miller

August 6, 2008



Senator Jeff Schoenberg - Co-Chairman
Representative Rich Meyers - Co-Chairman
Commission on Government
Forecasting and Accountability
703 Stratton Office Building
Springfield, Il 62706

Dear Senator Schoenberg and Representative Rich Meyers:

I am writing to you at this time concerning the topic of closing of Pontiac Prison. I ask as a citizen of Pontiac that you rethink this matter. The impact on the community way out weighs the money saved by the state (as they say). The prison is a viable establishment and can be run for several years. The impact of closing the prison would hit from the employees working there all the way to our school systems. As I see it would benefit more to keep it open, and use the other prisons as a place to handle some of the over crowding. Please re-consider closing the prison.

Sincerely,

Mildred Campbell

August 6, 2008

Senator Jeff Schoenberg - Co-Chairman
Representative Rich Meyers - Co-Chairman
Commission on Government
Forecasting and Accountability
703 Stratton Office Building
Springfield, Il 62706



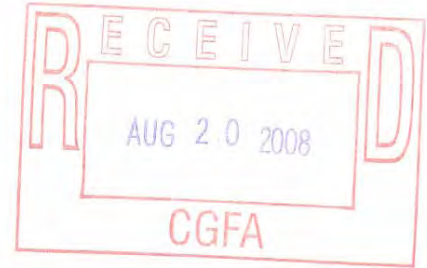
Dear Senator Schoenberg and Representative Meyers:

Please re-consider this issue of closing Pontiac Prison. By now you have seen a lot of effort go into trying to make this not happen. The areas surrounding the prison have taken many steps to show the support to keeping the prison open. The town have signs, people adorning the shirts, they held a parade with a lot of support, a town picture was taken, many meeting have been held and a lot of praying. We need the Pontiac Prison to remain open. The facts have not proven beyond a reasonable doubt that it should close. Please take the time, weigh out all options and make the right decision,

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "John B. Timmerman". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, sweeping "J" and "T".

August 6, 2008



Senator Jeff Schoenberg - Co-Chairman
Representative Rich Meyers - Co-Chairman
Commission on Government
Forecasting and Accountability
703 Stratton Office Building
Springfield, Il 62706

Dear Senator Schoenberg and Representative Meyers:

Please re-consider this issue of closing Pontiac Prison. By now you have seen a lot of effort go into trying to make this not happen. The areas surrounding the prison have taken many steps to show the support to keeping the prison open. The town have signs, people adorning the shirts, they held a parade with a lot of support, a town picture was taken, many meeting have been held and a lot of praying. We need the Pontiac Prison to remain open. The facts have not proven beyond a reasonable doubt that it should close. Please take the time, weigh out all options and make the right decision,

Sincerely,

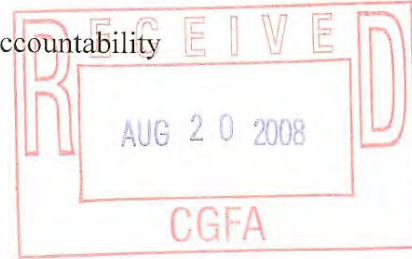
A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Bob Katz". The signature is written in a cursive, somewhat stylized script.

Life keeps getting better.

August 19, 2008

Senator Jeff Schoenberg, Representative Rich Myers
Co-Chairmen, Commission on Government Forecasting and Accountability
703 Stratton Office Building
Springfield, IL 62706

FREESTAR
BANK



RE: Closing of the Pontiac Correctional Center

Chairmen:

The Directors, Officers and Staff of FREESTAR Bank encourage you to help reverse the Governor's recommendation to close the Pontiac Correctional Center. I am writing as the President and CEO of FREESTAR on behalf of all our constituents.

The reasons for our recommendation not to close the facility are that:

- The state should consider the economic impact to its citizens as it takes any action within the state
- The economic impact (loss) to Livingston County and the surrounding area has been documented to be in the \$40 million plus range
- This action will severely disrupt the lives of not only those directly employed by PCC but also those whose jobs, homes, schools, etc. will be negatively impacted and the State has a social and moral responsibility to avoid this type of disruption where the "savings" are not that material to the state budget
- The economic savings are suspect in and of themselves, and
- The economic savings to the state even if accurate will be diminished by the loss of jobs and revenue when a significant number of the Thomson facility employees choose to live in Iowa.

Simply stated the economic affect on the community and more particular on the lives of citizens of Illinois is not worth the purported savings which in and of themselves are suspect.

Very truly yours,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read 'H. Edward Vogelsinger'.

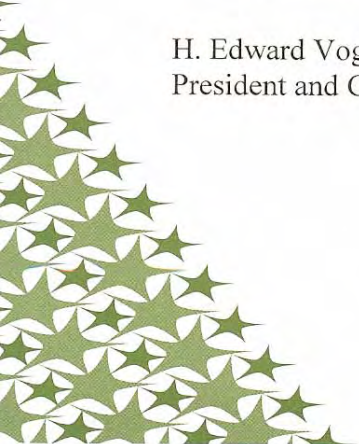
H. Edward Vogelsinger
President and CEO

www.freestarbank.com

Mill Street Branch
223 N. Mill Street
Pontiac, IL 61764

Madison Street Branch
521 W. Madison Street
Pontiac, IL 61764

West Branch
Route 116 & Route 66
Pontiac, IL 61764



CHURCH OF ST. MARY

119 E. Howard St.

PO Box 374

Pontiac, Illinois

August 8, 2008

Senator Jeff Schoenberg - Co-Chairman
Representative Rich Myers - Co-Chairman
Commission on Government Forecasting and Accountability
703 Stratton Office Building
Springfield, IL 61706



Dear Senator Schoenberg and Representative Myers,

I am the pastor of St. Mary's Catholic Church and School in Pontiac, St. Joseph's Church in Flanagan and St. John's Church in Cullom. I am writing on behalf of all these parishioners, asking your Commission to please reconsider the closing of Pontiac Correctional Center.

Not only are many of these parishioners employed at Pontiac Correctional Center, but many other parishioners and their locally owned businesses would be gravely affected by the closure. Reports have been made public of the economic impact the closure would have to Livingston County.

Speaking personally for my churches and parochial school, the impact could be dire. First of all, contributions in the collection basket will decrease from loss of families who will have to move and those whose livelihood has been decreased due to loss of business from these families. If attendance and collections drop dramatically, one or more churches could be forced to close. Secondly, our school could lose at least 15-20 students (nearly 10% of our student enrollment) due to families relocating. Other families whose livelihood has been decreased may find our tuition a burden and could also pull their children from our school. While we provide tuition assistance to families in need, a major increase in need would be more than we can afford. Thirdly, we employ 16 full time and 7 part time employees, several of whom are single women. A decrease in students and the funds to educate them could force us to make drastic cuts affecting these employees and their families as well. Finally, just earlier this year, we completed a major expansion to our school and parish campus. We rely on our parishioners to help us pay off the debt incurred in constructing this new facility. If our parish families have financial difficulties, obviously paying off our debt will be more difficult also. The economic outlook for Pontiac and Livingston County was strong when we embarked on this new construction. We would not have considered such an expansion had we known of the Governor's future plans.

In today's newspaper, there is an article saying that opening the Thomson facility would be a great economic boost - to Iowa! I would think losing residents, and their spending, and their tax money to Iowa should be a major consideration before proceeding with the closure of Pontiac Correctional Center. This closure could end up being a bad decision for all of Illinois, not just Pontiac and Livingston County.

Please reconsider the closure of Pontiac Correctional Center.

Thank you for your consideration of this matter.

Yours in Christ Jesus,

Handwritten signature of Msgr. Thomas E. Mack.

Msgr. Thomas E. Mack, Pastor
St. Mary's, Pontiac
St. Joseph's, Flanagan
St. John's, Cullom

August 6, 2008



Senator Jeff Schoenberg - Co-Chairman
Representative Rich Meyers - Co-Chairman
Commission on Government
Forecasting and Accountability
703 Stratton Office Building
Springfield, Il 62706

Dear Senator Schoenberg and Representative Meyers:

Please re-consider this issue of closing Pontiac Prison. By now you have seen a lot of effort go into trying to make this not happen. The areas surrounding the prison have taken many steps to show the support to keeping the prison open. The town have signs, people adorning the shirts, they held a parade with a lot of support, a town picture was taken, many meeting have been held and a lot of praying. We need the Pontiac Prison to remain open. The facts have not proven beyond a reasonable doubt that it should close. Please take the time, weigh out all options and make the right decision,

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Sharon & John Ziegler". The signature is written in a cursive style.

August 6, 2008



Senator Jeff Schoenberg - Co-Chairman
Representative Rich Meyers - Co-Chairman
Commission on Government
Forecasting and Accountability
703 Stratton Office Building
Springfield, Il 62706

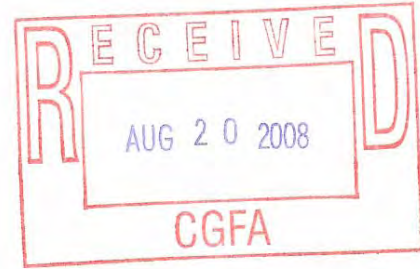
Dear Senator Schoenberg and Representative Meyers:

Please re-consider this issue of closing Pontiac Prison. By now you have seen a lot of effort go into trying to make this not happen. The areas surrounding the prison have taken many steps to show the support to keeping the prison open. The town have signs, people adorning the shirts, they held a parade with a lot of support, a town picture was taken, many meeting have been held and a lot of praying. We need the Pontiac Prison to remain open. The facts have not proven beyond a reasonable doubt that it should close. Please take the time, weigh out all options and make the right decision,

Sincerely,

Bessie Busing

August 6, 2008



Senator Jeff Schoenberg - Co-Chairman
Representative Rich Meyers - Co-Chairman
Commission on Government
Forecasting and Accountability
703 Stratton Office Building
Springfield, Il 62706

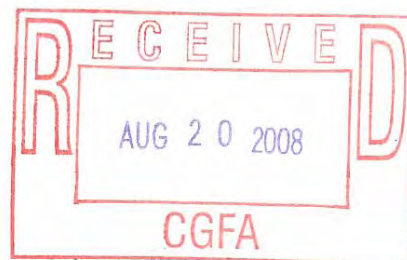
Dear Senator Schoenberg and Representative Meyers:

Please re-consider this issue of closing Pontiac Prison. By now you have seen a lot of effort go into trying to make this not happen. The area towns surrounding the prison have taken many steps to show their support to keeping the prison open. The towns have signs, people adorning tee-shirts, they held a parade with a lot of support, a town picture was taken, many meetings have been held and alot of praying is being done. We need the Pontiac Prison to remain open. The facts have not proven beyond a reasonable doubt that it should close. Please take the time, with out all of the options and make the right decision. Keep PONTIAC PRISON open.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Mai Anne Arnold".

August 6, 2008



Senator Jeff Schoenberg - Co-Chairman
Representative Rich Meyers - Co-Chairman
Commission on Government
Forecasting and Accountability
703 Stratton Office Building
Springfield, Il 62706

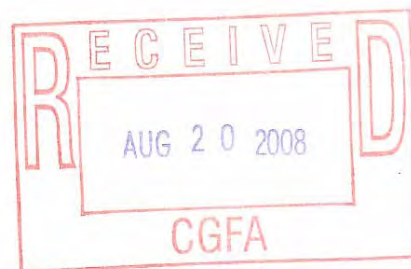
Dear Senator Schoenberg and Representative Meyers:

Please re-consider this issue of closing Pontiac Prison. By now you have seen a lot of effort go into trying to make this not happen. The area towns surrounding the prison have taken many steps to show their support to keeping the prison open. The towns have signs, people adorning tee-shirts, they held a parade with a lot of support, a town picture was taken, many meetings have been held and alot of praying is being done. We need the Pontiac Prison to remain open. The facts have not proven beyond a reasonable doubt that it should close. Please take the time, with out all of the options and make the right decision. Keep PONTIAC PRISON open.

Sincerely,

Carol J. Graves

August 6, 2008



Senator Jeff Schoenberg - Co-Chairman
Representative Rich Meyers - Co-Chairman
Commission on Government
Forecasting and Accountability
703 Stratton Office Building
Springfield, Il 62706

Dear Senator Schoenberg and Representative Meyers:

Please re-consider this issue of closing Pontiac Prison. By now you have seen a lot of effort go into trying to make this not happen. The area towns surrounding the prison have taken many steps to show their support to keeping the prison open. The towns have signs, people adorning tee-shirts, they held a parade with a lot of support, a town picture was taken, many meetings have been held and alot of praying is being done. We need the Pontiac Prison to remain open. The facts have not proven beyond a reasonable doubt that it should close. Please take the time, with out all of the options and make the right decision. Keep PONTIAC PRISON open.

Sincerely,

Mr. & Mrs David Weaver

August 6, 2008



Senator Jeff Schoenberg - Co-Chairman
Representative Rich Meyers - Co-Chairman
Commission on Government
Forecasting and Accountability
703 Stratton Office Building
Springfield, IL 62706

Dear Senator Schoenberg and Representative Meyers:

Please re-consider this issue of closing Pontiac Prison. By now you have seen a lot of effort go into trying to make this not happen. The area towns surrounding the prison have taken many steps to show their support to keeping the prison open. The towns have signs, people adorning tee-shirts, they held a parade with a lot of support, a town picture was taken, many meetings have been held and a lot of praying is being done. We need the Pontiac Prison to remain open. The facts have not proven beyond a reasonable doubt that it should close. Please take the time, without all of the options and make the right decision. Keep PONTIAC PRISON open.

Sincerely,

Nancy K. Hebers

August 6, 2008



Senator Jeff Schoenberg - Co-Chairman
Representative Rich Meyers - Co-Chairman
Commission on Government
Forecasting and Accountability
703 Stratton Office Building
Springfield, IL 62706

Dear Senator Schoenberg and Representative Meyers:

Please re-consider this issue of closing Pontiac Prison. By now you have seen a lot of effort go into trying to make this not happen. The area towns surrounding the prison have taken many steps to show their support to keeping the prison open. The towns have signs, people adorning tee-shirts, they held a parade with a lot of support, a town picture was taken, many meetings have been held and a lot of praying is being done. We need the Pontiac Prison to remain open. The facts have not proven beyond a reasonable doubt that it should close. Please take the time, with out all of the options and make the right decision. Keep PONTIAC PRISON open.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Carol Dumer".

August 6, 2008



Senator Jeff Schoenberg - Co-Chairman
Representative Rich Meyers - Co-Chairman
Commission on Government
Forecasting and Accountability
703 Stratton Office Building
Springfield, Il 62706

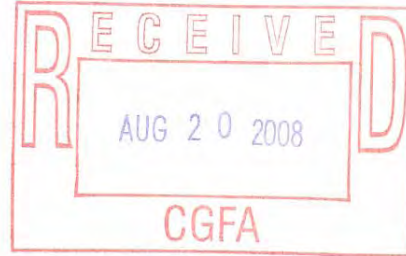
Dear Senator Schoenberg and Representative Meyers:

Please re-consider this issue of closing Pontiac Prison. By now you have seen a lot of effort go into trying to make this not happen. The areas surrounding the prison have taken many steps to show the support to keeping the prison open. The town have signs, people adorning the shirts, they held a parade with a lot of support, a town picture was taken, many meeting have been held and a lot of praying. We need the Pontiac Prison to remain open. The facts have not proven beyond a reasonable doubt that it should close. Please take the time, weigh out all options and make the right decision,

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "petite m. Stucky".

August 6, 2008



Senator Jeff Schoenberg - Co-Chairman
Representative Rich Meyers - Co-Chairman
Commission on Government
Forecasting and Accountability
703 Stratton Office Building
Springfield, Il 62706

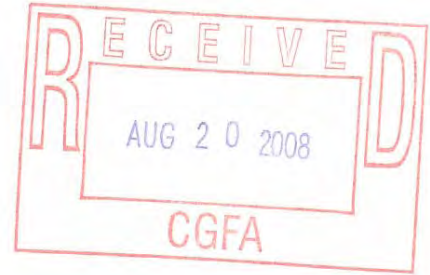
Dear Senator Schoenberg and Representative Rich Meyers:

I am writing to you at this time concerning the topic of closing of Pontiac Prison. I ask as a citizen of Pontiac that you rethink this matter. The impact on the community way out weighs the money saved by the state (as they say). The prison is a viable establishment and can be run for several years. The impact of closing the prison would hit from the employees working there all the way to our school systems. As I see it would benefit more to keep it open, and use the other prisons as a place to handle some of the over crowding. Please re-consider closing the prison.

Sincerely,

Janice Skay

August 6, 2008



Senator Jeff Schoenberg - Co-Chairman
Representative Rich Meyers - Co-Chairman
Commission on Government
Forecasting and Accountability
703 Stratton Office Building
Springfield, Il 62706

Dear Senator Schoenberg and Representative Rich Meyers:

I am writing to you at this time concerning the topic of closing of Pontiac Prison. I ask as a citizen of Pontiac that you rethink this matter. The impact on the community way out weighs the money saved by the state (as they say). The prison is a viable establishment and can be run for several years. The impact of closing the prison would hit from the employees working there all the way to our school systems. As I see it would benefit more to keep it open, and use the other prisons as a place to handle some of the over crowding. Please re-consider closing the prison.

Sincerely,

Dale Campbell
Former Mayor

August 6, 2008



Senator Jeff Schoenberg - Co-Chairman
Representative Rich Meyers - Co-Chairman
Commission on Government
Forecasting and Accountability
703 Stratton Office Building
Springfield, IL 62706

Dear Senator Schoenberg and Representative Meyers:

Please re-consider this issue of closing Pontiac Prison. By now you have seen a lot of effort go into trying to make this not happen. The area towns surrounding the prison have taken many steps to show their support to keeping the prison open. The towns have signs, people adorning tee-shirts, they held a parade with a lot of support, a town picture was taken, many meetings have been held and a lot of praying is being done. We need the Pontiac Prison to remain open. The facts have not proven beyond a reasonable doubt that it should close. Please take the time, without all of the options and make the right decision. Keep PONTIAC PRISON open.

Sincerely,

Karon A. Burtta

August 6, 2008



Senator Jeff Schoenberg - Co-Chairman
Representative Rich Meyers - Co-Chairman
Commission on Government
Forecasting and Accountability
703 Stratton Office Building
Springfield, Il 62706

Dear Senator Schoenberg and Representative Meyers:

Please re-consider this issue of closing Pontiac Prison. By now you have seen a lot of effort go into trying to make this not happen. The areas surrounding the prison have taken many steps to show the support to keeping the prison open. The town have signs, people adorning the shirts, they held a parade with a lot of support, a town picture was taken, many meeting have been held and a lot of praying. We need the Pontiac Prison to remain open. The facts have not proven beyond a reasonable doubt that it should close. Please take the time, weigh out all options and make the right decision,

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Lisa Hoagy".

August 6, 2008



Senator Jeff Schoenberg - Co-Chairman
Representative Rich Meyers - Co-Chairman
Commission on Government
Forecasting and Accountability
703 Stratton Office Building
Springfield, IL 62706

Dear Senator Schoenberg and Representative Meyers:

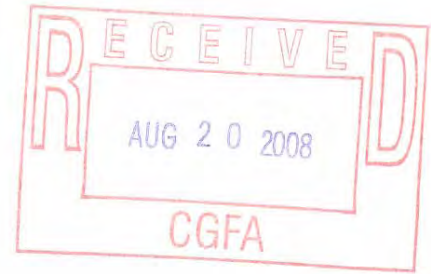
Please re-consider this issue of closing Pontiac Prison. By now you have seen a lot of effort go into trying to make this not happen. The areas surrounding the prison have taken many steps to show the support to keeping the prison open. The town have signs, people adorning the shirts, they held a parade with a lot of support, a town picture was taken, many meetings have been held and a lot of praying. We need the Pontiac Prison to remain open. The facts have not proven beyond a reasonable doubt that it should close. Please take the time, weigh out all options and make the right decision,

Sincerely,

Rachel Lee

August 6, 2008

Senator Jeff Schoenberg - Co-Chairman
Representative Rich Meyers - Co-Chairman
Commission on Government
Forecasting and Accountability
703 Stratton Office Building
Springfield, IL 62706



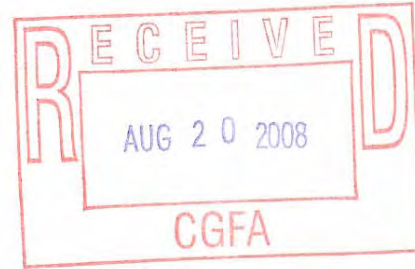
Dear Senator Schoenberg and Representative Meyers:

Please re-consider this issue of closing Pontiac Prison. By now you have seen a lot of effort go into trying to make this not happen. The areas surrounding the prison have taken many steps to show the support to keeping the prison open. The town have signs, people adorning the shirts, they held a parade with a lot of support, a town picture was taken, many meeting have been held and a lot of praying. We need the Pontiac Prison to remain open. The facts have not proven beyond a reasonable doubt that it should close. Please take the time, weigh out all options and make the right decision,

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Ellen Gayon".

August 6, 2008



Senator Jeff Schoenberg - Co-Chairman
Representative Rich Meyers - Co-Chairman
Commission on Government
Forecasting and Accountability
703 Stratton Office Building
Springfield, Il 62706

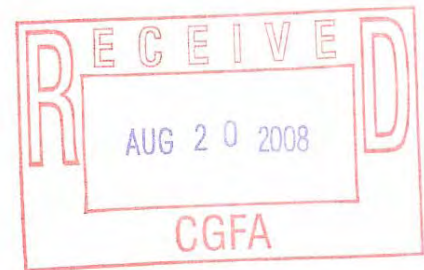
Dear Senator Schoenberg and Representative Meyers:

Gentleman lets not make a hasty decision of closing Pontiac Prison, by just looking at the one time figures and as it is stated facts. As our elected officials taking the time to thoroughly look into this would be greatly appreciated. The closing of the prison would impact central Illinois in a very negative matter. I reside in Livingston County and my home value will drop, business will close, schools will suffer and unemployment will rise. My neighbors have been good employees for the State and serve the prison well. It would be a shame to make 600 or more people turn their lives upside down. I am asking as a citizen of Illinois that you take much more time to investigate this situation and leave Pontiac Prison open.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Al E. Cummings".

August 6, 2008



Senator Jeff Schoenberg - Co-Chairman
Representative Rich Meyers - Co-Chairman
Commission on Government
Forecasting and Accountability
703 Stratton Office Building
Springfield, Il 62706

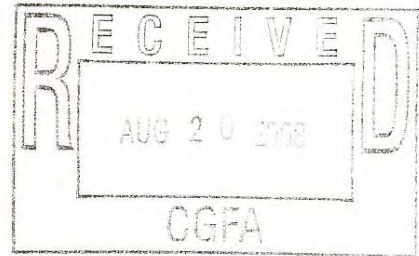
Dear Senator Schoenberg and Representative Meyers:

Please re-consider this issue of closing Pontiac Prison. By now you have seen a lot of effort go into trying to make this not happen. The areas surrounding the prison have taken many steps to show the support to keeping the prison open. The town have signs, people adorning the shirts, they held a parade with a lot of support, a town picture was taken, many meeting have been held and a lot of praying. We need the Pontiac Prison to remain open. The facts have not proven beyond a reasonable doubt that it should close. Please take the time, weigh out all options and make the right decision,

Sincerely,

R.E. Hernandez

August 6, 2008

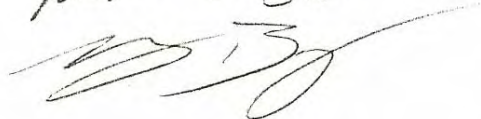


Senator Jeff Schoenberg - Co-Chairman
Representative Rich Meyers - Co-Chairman
Commission on Government
Forecasting and Accountability
703 Stratton Office Building
Springfield, Il 62706

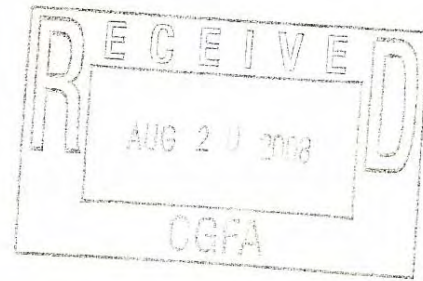
Dear Senator Schoenberg and Representative Rich Meyers:

I am writing to you at this time concerning the topic of closing of Pontiac Prison. I ask as a citizen of Pontiac that you rethink this matter. The impact on the community way out weighs the money saved by the state (as they say). The prison is a viable establishment and can be run for several years. The impact of closing the prison would hit from the employees working there all the way to our school systems. As I see it would benefit more to keep it open, and use the other prisons as a place to handle some of the over crowding. Please re-consider closing the prison.

Sincerely,

Mike Baughman


August 6, 2008



Senator Jeff Schoenberg - Co-Chairman
Representative Rich Meyers - Co-Chairman
Commission on Government
Forecasting and Accountability
703 Stratton Office Building
Springfield, IL 62706

Dear Senator Schoenberg and Representative Meyers:

Please re-consider this issue of closing Pontiac Prison. By now you have seen a lot of effort go into trying to make this not happen. The areas surrounding the prison have taken many steps to show the support to keeping the prison open. The town have signs, people adorning the shirts, they held a parade with a lot of support, a town picture was taken, many meeting have been held and a lot of praying. We need the Pontiac Prison to remain open. The facts have not proven beyond a reasonable doubt that it should close. Please take the time, weigh out all options and make the right decision,

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Todd R. Young".

August 6, 2008



Senator Jeff Schoenberg - Co-Chairman
Representative Rich Meyers - Co-Chairman
Commission on Government
Forecasting and Accountability
703 Stratton Office Building
Springfield, IL 62706

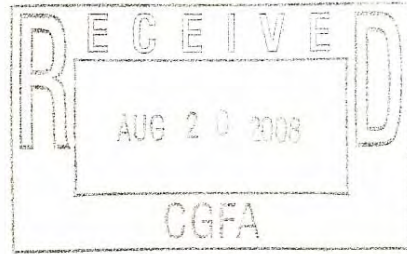
Dear Senator Schoenberg and Representative Meyers:

Please re-consider this issue of closing Pontiac Prison. By now you have seen a lot of effort go into trying to make this not happen. The areas surrounding the prison have taken many steps to show the support to keeping the prison open. The town have signs, people adorning the shirts, they held a parade with a lot of support, a town picture was taken, many meetings have been held and a lot of praying. We need the Pontiac Prison to remain open. The facts have not proven beyond a reasonable doubt that it should close. Please take the time, weigh out all options and make the right decision,

Sincerely,

Mr + Mrs Ronald Kneel

August 6, 2008



Senator Jeff Schoenberg - Co-Chairman
Representative Rich Meyers - Co-Chairman
Commission on Government
Forecasting and Accountability
703 Stratton Office Building
Springfield, IL 62706

Dear Senator Schoenberg and Representative Meyers:

Please re-consider this issue of closing Pontiac Prison. By now you have seen a lot of effort go into trying to make this not happen. The area towns surrounding the prison have taken many steps to show their support to keeping the prison open. The towns have signs, people adorning tee-shirts, they held a parade with a lot of support, a town picture was taken, many meetings have been held and a lot of praying is being done. We need the Pontiac Prison to remain open. The facts have not proven beyond a reasonable doubt that it should close. Please take the time, without all of the options and make the right decision. Keep PONTIAC PRISON open.

Sincerely,

Regenia Rakoczy

August 6, 2008



Senator Jeff Schoenberg - Co-Chairman
Representative Rich Meyers - Co-Chairman
Commission on Government
Forecasting and Accountability
703 Stratton Office Building
Springfield, IL 62706

Dear Senator Schoenberg and Representative Meyers:

Please re-consider this issue of closing Pontiac Prison. By now you have seen a lot of effort go into trying to make this not happen. The areas surrounding the prison have taken many steps to show the support to keeping the prison open. The town have signs, people adorning the shirts, they held a parade with a lot of support, a town picture was taken, many meeting have been held and a lot of praying. We need the Pontiac Prison to remain open. The facts have not proven beyond a reasonable doubt that it should close. Please take the time, weigh out all options and make the right decision,

Sincerely,

Honora Pike

August 6, 2008



Senator Jeff Schoenberg - Co-Chairman
Representative Rich Meyers - Co-Chairman
Commission on Government
Forecasting and Accountability
703 Stratton Office Building
Springfield, Il 62706

Dear Senator Schoenberg and Representative Rich Meyers:

I am writing to you at this time concerning the topic of closing of Pontiac Prison. I ask as a citizen of Pontiac that you rethink this matter. The impact on the community way out weighs the money saved by the state (as they say). The prison is a viable establishment and can be run for several years. The impact of closing the prison would hit from the employees working there all the way to our school systems. As I see it would benefit more to keep it open, and use the other prisons as a place to handle some of the over crowding. Please re-consider closing the prison.

Sincerely,

Cherry Slaton

August 6, 2008



Senator Jeff Schoenberg - Co-Chairman
Representative Rich Meyers - Co-Chairman
Commission on Government
Forecasting and Accountability
703 Stratton Office Building
Springfield, Il 62706

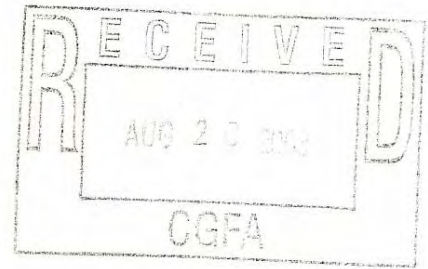
Dear Senator Schoenberg and Representative Meyers:

Please re-consider this issue of closing Pontiac Prison. By now you have seen a lot of effort go into trying to make this not happen. The areas surrounding the prison have taken many steps to show the support to keeping the prison open. The town have signs, people adorning the shirts, they held a parade with a lot of support, a town picture was taken, many meeting have been held and a lot of praying. We need the Pontiac Prison to remain open. The facts have not proven beyond a reasonable doubt that it should close. Please take the time, weigh out all options and make the right decision,

Sincerely,

Cindy Rummel

August 6, 2008



Senator Jeff Schoenberg - Co-Chairman
Representative Rich Meyers - Co-Chairman
Commission on Government
Forecasting and Accountability
703 Stratton Office Building
Springfield, Il 62706

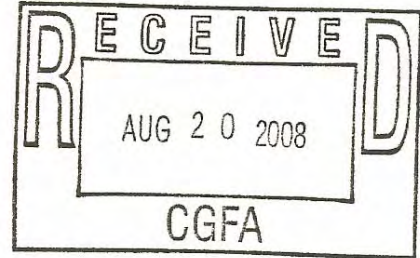
Dear Senator Schoenberg and Representative Rich Meyers:

I am writing to you at this time concerning the topic of closing of Pontiac Prison. I ask as a citizen of Pontiac that you rethink this matter. The impact on the community way out weighs the money saved by the state (as they say). The prison is a viable establishment and can be run for several years. The impact of closing the prison would hit from the employees working there all the way to our school systems. As I see it would benefit more to keep it open, and use the other prisons as a place to handle some of the over crowding. Please re-consider closing the prison.

Sincerely,

Alice Phillips

August 6, 2008



Senator Jeff Schoenberg - Co-Chairman
Representative Rich Meyers - Co-Chairman
Commission on Government
Forecasting and Accountability
703 Stratton Office Building
Springfield, Il 62706

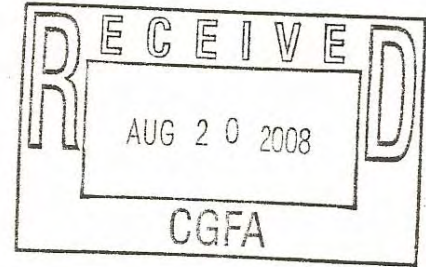
Dear Senator Schoenberg and Representative Meyers:

Please re-consider this issue of closing Pontiac Prison. By now you have seen a lot of effort go into trying to make this not happen. The area towns surrounding the prison have taken many steps to show their support to keeping the prison open. The towns have signs, people adorning tee-shirts, they held a parade with a lot of support, a town picture was taken, many meetings have been held and a lot of praying is being done. We need the Pontiac Prison to remain open. The facts have not proven beyond a reasonable doubt that it should close. Please take the time, without all of the options and make the right decision. Keep PONTIAC PRISON open.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Nancy L. Legg". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned below the word "Sincerely,".

August 6, 2008



Senator Jeff Schoenberg - Co-Chairman
Representative Rich Meyers - Co-Chairman
Commission on Government
Forecasting and Accountability
703 Stratton Office Building
Springfield, IL 62706

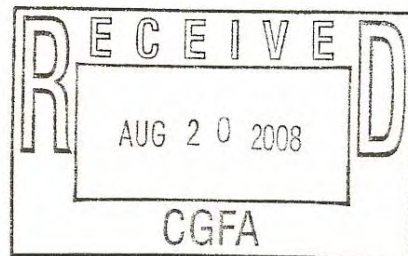
Dear Senator Schoenberg and Representative Meyers:

Please re-consider this issue of closing Pontiac Prison. By now you have seen a lot of effort go into trying to make this not happen. The area towns surrounding the prison have taken many steps to show their support to keeping the prison open. The towns have signs, people adorning tee-shirts, they held a parade with a lot of support, a town picture was taken, many meetings have been held and a lot of praying is being done. We need the Pontiac Prison to remain open. The facts have not proven beyond a reasonable doubt that it should close. Please take the time, with out all of the options and make the right decision. Keep PONTIAC PRISON open.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "John Buchanan". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned to the right of the word "Sincerely,".

August 6, 2008



Senator Jeff Schoenberg - Co-Chairman
Representative Rich Meyers - Co-Chairman
Commission on Government
Forecasting and Accountability
703 Stratton Office Building
Springfield, Il 62706

Dear Senator Schoenberg and Representative Meyers:

Please re-consider this issue of closing Pontiac Prison. By now you have seen a lot of effort go into trying to make this not happen. The area towns surrounding the prison have taken many steps to show their support to keeping the prison open. The towns have signs, people adorning tee-shirts, they held a parade with a lot of support, a town picture was taken, many meetings have been held and a lot of praying is being done. We need the Pontiac Prison to remain open. The facts have not proven beyond a reasonable doubt that it should close. Please take the time, with out all of the options and make the right decision. Keep PONTIAC PRISON open.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Beth Edinger". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned below the word "Sincerely,".

August 6, 2008



Senator Jeff Schoenberg - Co-Chairman
Representative Rich Meyers - Co-Chairman
Commission on Government
Forecasting and Accountability
703 Stratton Office Building
Springfield, Il 62706

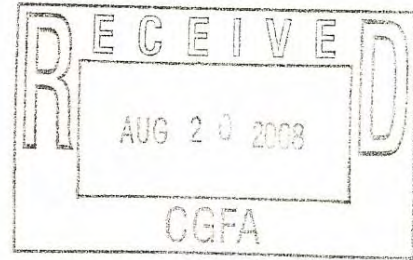
Dear Senator Schoenberg and Representative Rich Meyers:

I am writing to you at this time concerning the topic of closing of Pontiac Prison. I ask as a citizen of Pontiac that you rethink this matter. The impact on the community way out weighs the money saved by the state (as they say). The prison is a viable establishment and can be run for several years. The impact of closing the prison would hit from the employees working there all the way to our school systems. As I see it would benefit more to keep it open, and use the other prisons as a place to handle some of the over crowding. Please re-consider closing the prison.

Sincerely,

Barb R. Brunhill

August 6, 2008



Senator Jeff Schoenberg - Co-Chairman
Representative Rich Meyers - Co-Chairman
Commission on Government
Forecasting and Accountability
703 Stratton Office Building
Springfield, Il 62706

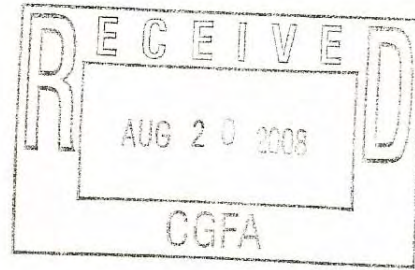
Dear Senator Schoenberg and Representative Rich Meyers:

I am writing to you at this time concerning the topic of closing of Pontiac Prison. I ask as a citizen of Pontiac that you rethink this matter. The impact on the community way out weighs the money saved by the state (as they say). The prison is a viable establishment and can be run for several years. The impact of closing the prison would hit from the employees working there all the way to our school systems. As I see it would benefit more to keep it open, and use the other prisons as a place to handle some of the over crowding. Please re-consider closing the prison.

Sincerely,

Patricia Hepperly

August 6, 2008



Senator Jeff Schoenberg - Co-Chairman
Representative Rich Meyers - Co-Chairman
Commission on Government
Forecasting and Accountability
703 Stratton Office Building
Springfield, Il 62706

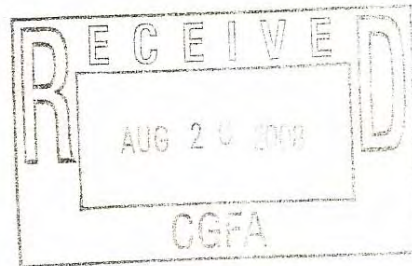
Dear Senator Schoenberg and Representative Rich Meyers:

I am writing to you at this time concerning the topic of closing of Pontiac Prison. I ask as a citizen of Pontiac that you rethink this matter. The impact on the community way out weighs the money saved by the state (as they say). The prison is a viable establishment and can be run for several years. The impact of closing the prison would hit from the employees working there all the way to our school systems. As I see it would benefit more to keep it open, and use the other prisons as a place to handle some of the over crowding. Please re-consider closing the prison.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "T. J. Mast".

August 6, 2008



Senator Jeff Schoenberg - Co-Chairman
Representative Rich Meyers - Co-Chairman
Commission on Government
Forecasting and Accountability
703 Stratton Office Building
Springfield, IL 62706

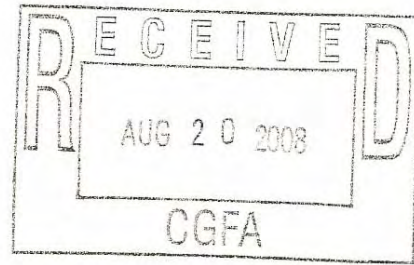
Dear Senator Schoenberg and Representative Meyers:

Please re-consider this issue of closing Pontiac Prison. By now you have seen a lot of effort go into trying to make this not happen. The area towns surrounding the prison have taken many steps to show their support to keeping the prison open. The towns have signs, people adorning tee-shirts, they held a parade with a lot of support, a town picture was taken, many meetings have been held and a lot of praying is being done. We need the Pontiac Prison to remain open. The facts have not proven beyond a reasonable doubt that it should close. Please take the time, without all of the options and make the right decision. Keep PONTIAC PRISON open.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Perry Hurling".

August 6, 2008



Senator Jeff Schoenberg - Co-Chairman
Representative Rich Meyers - Co-Chairman
Commission on Government
Forecasting and Accountability
703 Stratton Office Building
Springfield, IL 62706

Dear Senator Schoenberg and Representative Rich Meyers:

I am writing to you at this time concerning the topic of closing of Pontiac Prison. I ask as a citizen of Pontiac that you rethink this matter. The impact on the community way out weighs the money saved by the state (as they say). The prison is a viable establishment and can be run for several years. The impact of closing the prison would hit from the employees working there all the way to our school systems. As I see it would benefit more to keep it open, and use the other prisons as a place to handle some of the over crowding. Please re-consider closing the prison.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Howard C. Riley".

August 20, 2008

Senator Jeff Schoenberg, Co-Chairman
Representative Rich Myers, Co-Chairman
Commission on Government
Forecasting and Accountability
703 Stratton Office Building
Springfield, IL 62706



Dear Gentlemen:

This clipping just accents the repercussion occurring even before the finale blow is dealt!

How can you not realize how this is suicide for your parties' candidate for President etc.? We may be a small community, with what seems a drop in the bucket to you as far as votes are concerned.

One thing I've learned as a retail employee is, the power of public influence on others! What a high price to pay.

Sincerely,
Emily Vitti
1005 Bell Ave
Pontiac, IL 61768

Sincerely,



The Pantagraph/CARLOS T. MIRANDA

Pontiac residents pack the auditorium, common area and gymnasium Wednesday evening at Pontiac Township High School. The state of Illinois Commission on Government Forecasting and Accountability held a state facility closure act hearing.

With prison in limbo, developers pull plug

By Tony Sapochetti
tsapochetti@pantagraph.com

PONTIAC — A multimillion-dollar project has pulled out from developing in Pontiac.

In testimony Wednesday during a public hearing on the proposed closing of Pontiac Correctional Center, Mayor Scott McCoy said the developers pulled out because of the possibility of the prison's closing.

The project, under private discussion for a year, would have brought a hotel, home improvement warehouse, conference center and restaurant, McCoy said.

"I pitched the idea of coming to Pontiac and developing in our commercial area at Route 116 and Interstate 55," McCoy said. "They were very interested and we began working together ... in an effort to partner together to bring a large commercial development project to Pontiac."

EM Properties Ltd. of East Peoria has developed retail strips, office buildings, restaurants and hotels.

"The prison closing wasn't the only hurdle, but that pretty much iced it for us," EM Properties President Gary Matthews said Thursday. "Mainly, because it's a bit of a stretch to come up with a site like that with a community

that could lose so many jobs."

Matthews said two other factors also played a part: a land owner increased his price and some council members were reluctant about tax incentive plans.

EM wanted to develop land just east of Interstate 55 and behind Exact Packaging Inc.

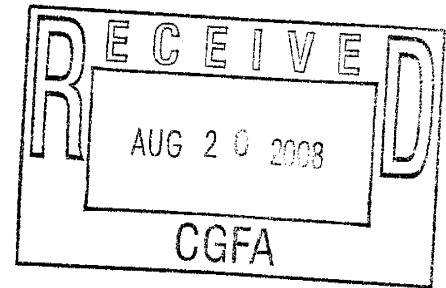
"The (prison) announcement alone was the straw that broke the camel's back," McCoy said. "What's hard to think about are the long hours of work that I, the city staff, and the city council put into this project in hopes of growth for our wonderful community. What's more difficult to swallow is what Pontiac has now lost."

McCoy said the project would have spanned more than 100 acres over 10 to 20 years and brought in \$10 million to \$12 million in development work and construction for its first phase. The development could have provided hundreds of full-time and part-time jobs, he said.

Although EM Properties is not looking to develop on the site now, but Matthews said that could change.

"I wouldn't say that the site has a lot of potential, but it does have potential," he said. "There is good exposure and good accessibility ... and we would certainly revisit it if those conditions are

August 6, 2008



Senator Jeff Schoenberg - Co-Chairman
Representative Rich Meyers - Co-Chairman
Commission on Government
Forecasting and Accountability
703 Stratton Office Building
Springfield, IL 62706

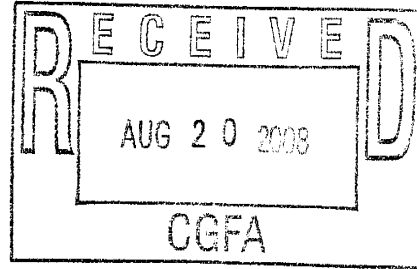
Dear Senator Schoenberg and Representative Meyers:

Please re-consider this issue of closing Pontiac Prison. By now you have seen a lot of effort go into trying to make this not happen. The area towns surrounding the prison have taken many steps to show their support to keeping the prison open. The towns have signs, people adorning tee-shirts, they held a parade with a lot of support, a town picture was taken, many meetings have been held and a lot of praying is being done. We need the Pontiac Prison to remain open. The facts have not proven beyond a reasonable doubt that it should close. Please take the time, without all of the options and make the right decision. Keep PONTIAC PRISON open.

Sincerely,

Linda Ferrero

August 6, 2008



Senator Jeff Schoenberg - Co-Chairman
Representative Rich Meyers - Co-Chairman
Commission on Government
Forecasting and Accountability
703 Stratton Office Building
Springfield, Il 62706

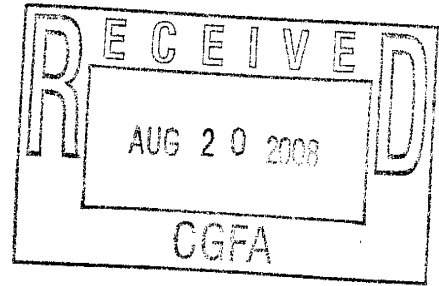
Dear Senator Schoenberg and Representative Rich Meyers:

I am writing to you at this time concerning the topic of closing of Pontiac Prison. I ask as a citizen of Pontiac that you rethink this matter. The impact on the community way out weighs the money saved by the state (as they say). The prison is a viable establishment and can be run for several years. The impact of closing the prison would hit from the employees working there all the way to our school systems. As I see it would benefit more to keep it open, and use the other prisons as a place to handle some of the over crowding. Please re-consider closing the prison.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Ashley Caswood".

August 6, 2008



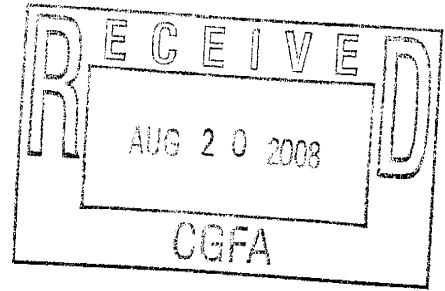
Senator Jeff Schoenberg - Co-Chairman
Representative Rich Meyers - Co-Chairman
Commission on Government
Forecasting and Accountability
703 Stratton Office Building
Springfield, Il 62706

Dear Senator Schoenberg and Representative Rich Meyers:

I am writing to you at this time concerning the topic of closing of Pontiac Prison. I ask as a citizen of Pontiac that you rethink this matter. The impact on the community way out weighs the money saved by the state (as they say). The prison is a viable establishment and can be run for several years. The impact of closing the prison would hit from the employees working there all the way to our school systems. As I see it would benefit more to keep it open, and use the other prisons as a place to handle some of the over crowding. Please re-consider closing the prison.

Sincerely,

Luven Battice



August 6, 2008

Senator Jeff Schoenberg - Co-Chairman
Representative Rich Meyers - Co-Chairman
Commission on Government
Forecasting and Accountability
703 Stratton Office Building
Springfield, Il 62706

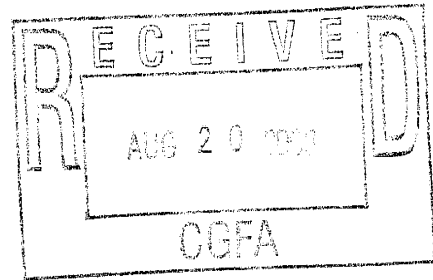
Dear Senator Schoenberg and Representative Rich Meyers:

I am writing to you at this time concerning the topic of closing of Pontiac Prison. I ask as a citizen of Pontiac that you rethink this matter. The impact on the community way out weighs the money saved by the state (as they say). The prison is a viable establishment and can be run for several years. The impact of closing the prison would hit from the employees working there all the way to our school systems. As I see it would benefit more to keep it open, and use the other prisons as a place to handle some of the over crowding. Please re-consider closing the prison.

Sincerely,

Michael Ridgway

August 6, 2008



Senator Jeff Schoenberg - Co-Chairman
Representative Rich Meyers - Co-Chairman
Commission on Government
Forecasting and Accountability
703 Stratton Office Building
Springfield, Il 62706

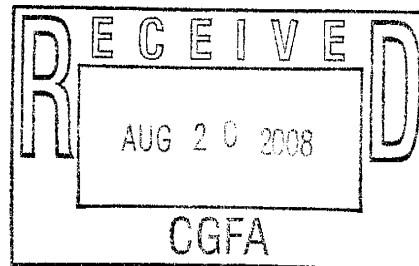
Dear Senator Schoenberg and Representative Rich Meyers:

I am writing to you at this time concerning the topic of closing of Pontiac Prison. I ask as a citizen of Pontiac that you rethink this matter. The impact on the community way out weighs the money saved by the state (as they say). The prison is a viable establishment and can be run for several years. The impact of closing the prison would hit from the employees working there all the way to our school systems. As I see it would benefit more to keep it open, and use the other prisons as a place to handle some of the over crowding. Please re-consider closing the prison.

Sincerely,

Bill Salvator

August 6, 2008



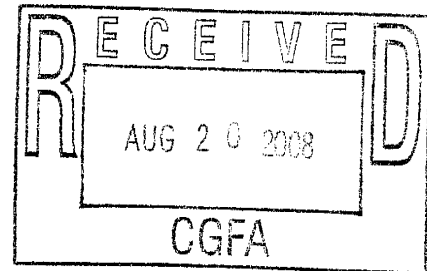
Senator Jeff Schoenberg - Co-Chairman
Representative Rich Meyers - Co-Chairman
Commission on Government
Forecasting and Accountability
703 Stratton Office Building
Springfield, Il 62706

Dear Senator Schoenberg and Representative Meyers:

Please re-consider this issue of closing Pontiac Prison. By now you have seen a lot of effort go into trying to make this not happen. The area towns surrounding the prison have taken many steps to show their support to keeping the prison open. The towns have signs, people adorning tee-shirts, they held a parade with a lot of support, a town picture was taken, many meetings have been held and alot of praying is being done. We need the Pontiac Prison to remain open. The facts have not proven beyond a reasonable doubt that it should close. Please take the time, with out all of the options and make the right decision. Keep PONTIAC PRISON open.

Sincerely,

August 6, 2008



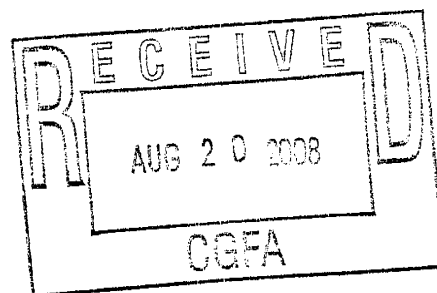
Senator Jeff Schoenberg - Co-Chairman
Representative Rich Meyers - Co-Chairman
Commission on Government
Forecasting and Accountability
703 Stratton Office Building
Springfield, IL 62706

Dear Senator Schoenberg and Representative Rich Meyers:

I am writing to you at this time concerning the topic of closing of Pontiac Prison. I ask as a citizen of Pontiac that you rethink this matter. The impact on the community way out weighs the money saved by the state (as they say). The prison is a viable establishment and can be run for several years. The impact of closing the prison would hit from the employees working there all the way to our school systems. As I see it would benefit more to keep it open, and use the other prisons as a place to handle some of the over crowding. Please re-consider closing the prison.

Sincerely,

August 6, 2008



Senator Jeff Schoenberg - Co-Chairman
Representative Rich Meyers - Co-Chairman
Commission on Government
Forecasting and Accountability
703 Stratton Office Building
Springfield, Il 62706

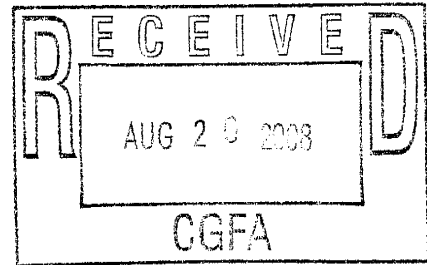
Dear Senator Schoenberg and Representative Rich Meyers:

I am writing to you at this time concerning the topic of closing of Pontiac Prison. I ask as a citizen of Pontiac that you rethink this matter. The impact on the community way out weighs the money saved by the state (as they say). The prison is a viable establishment and can be run for several years. The impact of closing the prison would hit from the employees working there all the way to our school systems. As I see it would benefit more to keep it open, and use the other prisons as a place to handle some of the over crowding. Please re-consider closing the prison.

Sincerely,

Jim Ridgway

August 6, 2008



Senator Jeff Schoenberg - Co-Chairman
Representative Rich Meyers - Co-Chairman
Commission on Government
Forecasting and Accountability
703 Stratton Office Building
Springfield, IL 62706

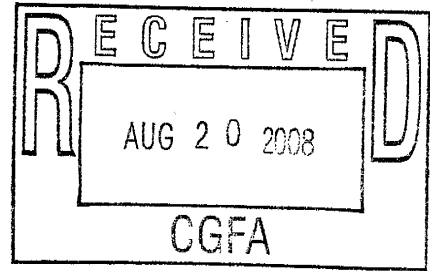
Dear Senator Schoenberg and Representative Rich Meyers:

I am writing to you at this time concerning the topic of closing of Pontiac Prison. I ask as a citizen of Pontiac that you rethink this matter. The impact on the community way out weighs the money saved by the state (as they say). The prison is a viable establishment and can be run for several years. The impact of closing the prison would hit from the employees working there all the way to our school systems. As I see it would benefit more to keep it open, and use the other prisons as a place to handle some of the over crowding. Please re-consider closing the prison.

Sincerely,

Betty Decker

August 6, 2008



Senator Jeff Schoenberg - Co-Chairman
Representative Rich Meyers - Co-Chairman
Commission on Government
Forecasting and Accountability
703 Stratton Office Building
Springfield, IL 62706

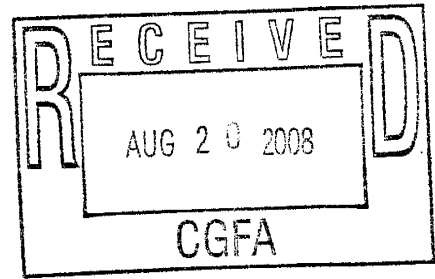
Dear Senator Schoenberg and Representative Meyers:

Please re-consider this issue of closing Pontiac Prison. By now you have seen a lot of effort go into trying to make this not happen. The area towns surrounding the prison have taken many steps to show their support to keeping the prison open. The towns have signs, people adorning tee-shirts, they held a parade with a lot of support, a town picture was taken, many meetings have been held and a lot of praying is being done. We need the Pontiac Prison to remain open. The facts have not proven beyond a reasonable doubt that it should close. Please take the time, without all of the options and make the right decision. Keep PONTIAC PRISON open.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Marge Helton".

August 6, 2008



Senator Jeff Schoenberg - Co-Chairman
Representative Rich Meyers - Co-Chairman
Commission on Government
Forecasting and Accountability
703 Stratton Office Building
Springfield, Il 62706

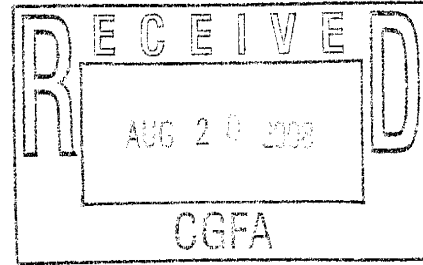
Dear Senator Schoenberg and Representative Meyers:

Please re-consider this issue of closing Pontiac Prison. By now you have seen a lot of effort go into trying to make this not happen. The area towns surrounding the prison have taken many steps to show their support to keeping the prison open. The towns have signs, people adorning tee-shirts, they held a parade with a lot of support, a town picture was taken, many meetings have been held and alot of praying is being done. We need the Pontiac Prison to remain open. The facts have not proven beyond a reasonable doubt that it should close. Please take the time, with out all of the options and make the right decision. Keep PONTIAC PRISON open.

Sincerely,

Marcin Harder
121 E. Ray St.
Pontiac, Il. 61764

August 6, 2008



Senator Jeff Schoenberg - Co-Chairman
Representative Rich Meyers - Co-Chairman
Commission on Government
Forecasting and Accountability
703 Stratton Office Building
Springfield, Il 62706

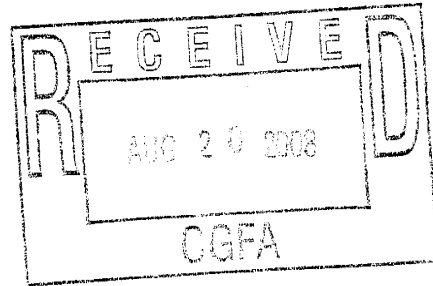
Dear Senator Schoenberg and Representative Meyers:

Please re-consider this issue of closing Pontiac Prison. By now you have seen a lot of effort go into trying to make this not happen. The areas surrounding the prison have taken many steps to show the support to keeping the prison open. The town have signs, people adorning the shirts, they held a parade with a lot of support, a town picture was taken, many meeting have been held and a lot of praying. We need the Pontiac Prison to remain open. The facts have not proven beyond a reasonable doubt that it should close. Please take the time, weigh out all options and make the right decision,

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Donald E. Falks".

August 6, 2008



Senator Jeff Schoenberg - Co-Chairman
Representative Rich Meyers - Co-Chairman
Commission on Government
Forecasting and Accountability
703 Stratton Office Building
Springfield, IL 62706

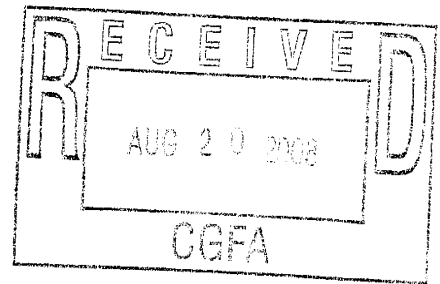
Dear Senator Schoenberg and Representative Meyers:

Please re-consider this issue of closing Pontiac Prison. By now you have seen a lot of effort go into trying to make this not happen. The areas surrounding the prison have taken many steps to show the support to keeping the prison open. The town have signs, people adorning the shirts, they held a parade with a lot of support, a town picture was taken, many meeting have been held and a lot of praying. We need the Pontiac Prison to remain open. The facts have not proven beyond a reasonable doubt that it should close. Please take the time, weigh out all options and make the right decision,

Sincerely,

Mr and Mrs Carl Durham

August 6, 2008



Senator Jeff Schoenberg - Co-Chairman
Representative Rich Meyers - Co-Chairman
Commission on Government
Forecasting and Accountability
703 Stratton Office Building
Springfield, IL 62706

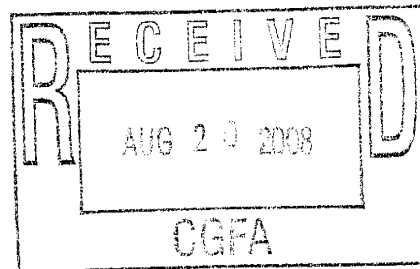
Dear Senator Schoenberg and Representative Meyers:

Please re-consider this issue of closing Pontiac Prison. By now you have seen a lot of effort go into trying to make this not happen. The areas surrounding the prison have taken many steps to show the support to keeping the prison open. The town have signs, people adorning the shirts, they held a parade with a lot of support, a town picture was taken, many meeting have been held and a lot of praying. We need the Pontiac Prison to remain open. The facts have not proven beyond a reasonable doubt that it should close. Please take the time, weigh out all options and make the right decision,

Sincerely,

Nancy L. Waschle
1005 S. Oak St.
Pontiac, IL 61764

August 6, 2008



Senator Jeff Schoenberg - Co-Chairman
Representative Rich Meyers - Co-Chairman
Commission on Government
Forecasting and Accountability
703 Stratton Office Building
Springfield, Il 62706

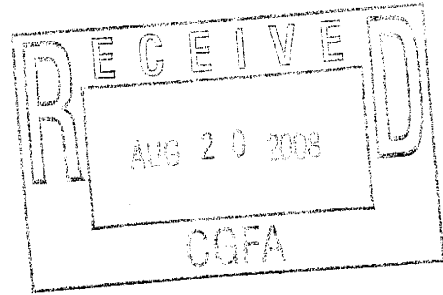
Dear Senator Schoenberg and Representative Meyers:

Please re-consider this issue of closing Pontiac Prison. By now you have seen a lot of effort go into trying to make this not happen. The areas surrounding the prison have taken many steps to show the support to keeping the prison open. The town have signs, people adorning the shirts, they held a parade with a lot of support, a town picture was taken, many meeting have been held and a lot of praying. We need the Pontiac Prison to remain open. The facts have not proven beyond a reasonable doubt that it should close. Please take the time, weigh out all options and make the right decision,

Sincerely,

Devin E. Short

August 6, 2008



Senator Jeff Schoenberg - Co-Chairman
Representative Rich Meyers - Co-Chairman
Commission on Government
Forecasting and Accountability
703 Stratton Office Building
Springfield, Il 62706

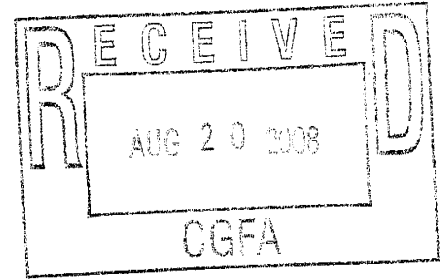
Dear Senator Schoenberg and Representative Rich Meyers:

I am writing to you at this time concerning the topic of closing of Pontiac Prison. I ask as a citizen of Pontiac that you rethink this matter. The impact on the community way out weighs the money saved by the state (as they say). The prison is a viable establishment and can be run for several years. The impact of closing the prison would hit from the employees working there all the way to our school systems. As I see it would benefit more to keep it open, and use the other prisons as a place to handle some of the over crowding. Please re-consider closing the prison.

Sincerely,

Kacie L. Demarse

August 6, 2008



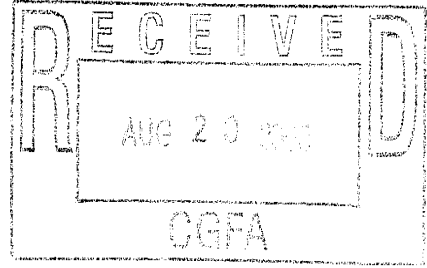
Senator Jeff Schoenberg - Co-Chairman
Representative Rich Meyers - Co-Chairman
Commission on Government
Forecasting and Accountability
703 Stratton Office Building
Springfield, Il 62706

Dear Senator Schoenberg and Representative Rich Meyers:

I am writing to you at this time concerning the topic of closing of Pontiac Prison. I ask as a citizen of Pontiac that you rethink this matter. The impact on the community way out weighs the money saved by the state (as they say). The prison is a viable establishment and can be run for several years. The impact of closing the prison would hit from the employees working there all the way to our school systems. As I see it would benefit more to keep it open, and use the other prisons as a place to handle some of the over crowding. Please re-consider closing the prison.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Mark A. Vulliamy". The signature is written in a cursive style with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.



August 6, 2008

Senator Jeff Schoenberg - Co-Chairman
Representative Rich Meyers - Co-Chairman
Commission on Government
Forecasting and Accountability
703 Stratton Office Building
Springfield, IL 62706

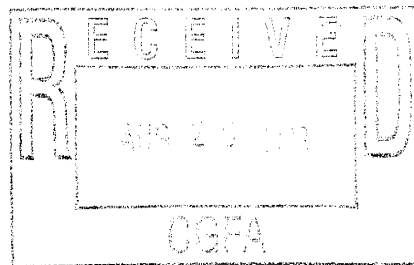
Dear Senator Schoenberg and Representative Rich Meyers:

I am writing to you at this time concerning the topic of closing of Pontiac Prison. I ask as a citizen of Pontiac that you rethink this matter. The impact on the community way out weighs the money saved by the state (as they say). The prison is a viable establishment and can be run for several years. The impact of closing the prison would hit from the employees working there all the way to our school systems. As I see it would benefit more to keep it open, and use the other prisons as a place to handle some of the over crowding. Please re-consider closing the prison.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Sandra M. Holmer".

August 6, 2008



Senator Jeff Schoenberg - Co-Chairman
Representative Rich Meyers - Co-Chairman
Commission on Government
Forecasting and Accountability
703 Stratton Office Building
Springfield, Il 62706

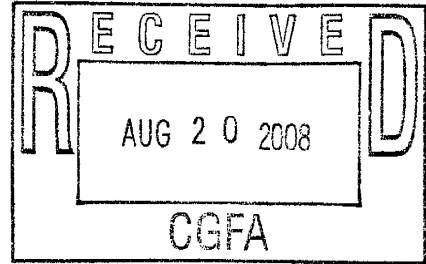
Dear Senator Schoenberg and Representative Rich Meyers:

I am writing to you at this time concerning the topic of closing of Pontiac Prison. I ask as a citizen of Pontiac that you rethink this matter. The impact on the community way out weighs the money saved by the state (as they say). The prison is a viable establishment and can be run for several years. The impact of closing the prison would hit from the employees working there all the way to our school systems. As I see it would benefit more to keep it open, and use the other prisons as a place to handle some of the over crowding. Please re-consider closing the prison.

Sincerely,

Walter A. Boston

August 6, 2008



Senator Jeff Schoenberg - Co-Chairman
Representative Rich Meyers - Co-Chairman
Commission on Government
Forecasting and Accountability
703 Stratton Office Building
Springfield, IL 62706

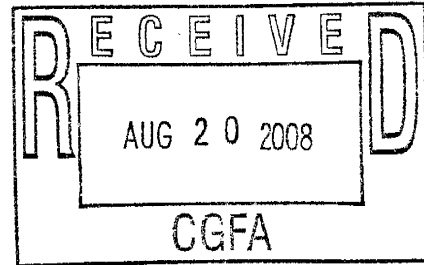
Dear Senator Schoenberg and Representative Meyers:

Please re-consider this issue of closing Pontiac Prison. By now you have seen a lot of effort go into trying to make this not happen. The area towns surrounding the prison have taken many steps to show their support to keeping the prison open. The towns have signs, people adorning tee-shirts, they held a parade with a lot of support, a town picture was taken, many meetings have been held and a lot of praying is being done. We need the Pontiac Prison to remain open. The facts have not proven beyond a reasonable doubt that it should close. Please take the time, without all of the options and make the right decision. Keep PONTIAC PRISON open.

Sincerely,

Albert D. Schlapp

August 6, 2008



Senator Jeff Schoenberg - Co-Chairman
Representative Rich Meyers - Co-Chairman
Commission on Government
Forecasting and Accountability
703 Stratton Office Building
Springfield, Il 62706

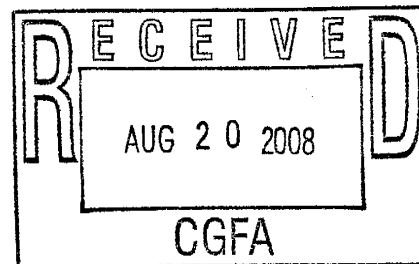
Dear Senator Schoenberg and Representative Meyers:

Please re-consider this issue of closing Pontiac Prison. By now you have seen a lot of effort go into trying to make this not happen. The area towns surrounding the prison have taken many steps to show their support to keeping the prison open. The towns have signs, people adorning tee-shirts, they held a parade with a lot of support, a town picture was taken, many meetings have been held and a lot of praying is being done. We need the Pontiac Prison to remain open. The facts have not proven beyond a reasonable doubt that it should close. Please take the time, with out all of the options and make the right decision. Keep PONTIAC PRISON open.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be "T. Schoenberg". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, sweeping flourish at the end.

August 6, 2008



Senator Jeff Schoenberg - Co-Chairman
Representative Rich Meyers - Co-Chairman
Commission on Government
Forecasting and Accountability
703 Stratton Office Building
Springfield, IL 62706

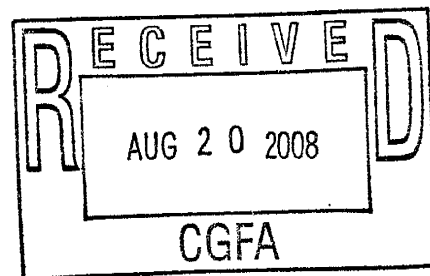
Dear Senator Schoenberg and Representative Meyers:

Please re-consider this issue of closing Pontiac Prison. By now you have seen a lot of effort go into trying to make this not happen. The area towns surrounding the prison have taken many steps to show their support to keeping the prison open. The towns have signs, people adorning tee-shirts, they held a parade with a lot of support, a town picture was taken, many meetings have been held and a lot of praying is being done. We need the Pontiac Prison to remain open. The facts have not proven beyond a reasonable doubt that it should close. Please take the time, without all of the options and make the right decision. Keep PONTIAC PRISON open.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Stan Henry". The signature is written in a cursive style with a long, sweeping underline that extends to the right.

August 6, 2008



Senator Jeff Schoenberg - Co-Chairman
Representative Rich Meyers - Co-Chairman
Commission on Government
Forecasting and Accountability
703 Stratton Office Building
Springfield, IL 62706

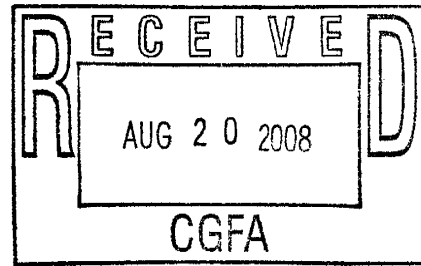
Dear Senator Schoenberg and Representative Meyers:

Please re-consider this issue of closing Pontiac Prison. By now you have seen a lot of effort go into trying to make this not happen. The area towns surrounding the prison have taken many steps to show their support to keeping the prison open. The towns have signs, people adorning tee-shirts, they held a parade with a lot of support, a town picture was taken, many meetings have been held and a lot of praying is being done. We need the Pontiac Prison to remain open. The facts have not proven beyond a reasonable doubt that it should close. Please take the time, with out all of the options and make the right decision. Keep PONTIAC PRISON open.

Sincerely,

Lawn Wright

August 6, 2008



Senator Jeff Schoenberg - Co-Chairman
Representative Rich Meyers - Co-Chairman
Commission on Government
Forecasting and Accountability
703 Stratton Office Building
Springfield, Il 62706

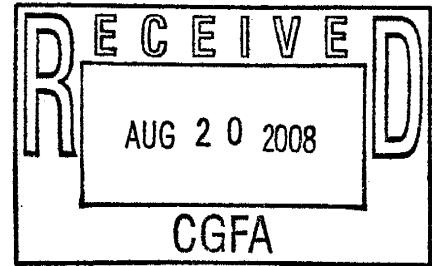
Dear Senator Schoenberg and Representative Meyers:

Please re-consider this issue of closing Pontiac Prison. By now you have seen a lot of effort go into trying to make this not happen. The area towns surrounding the prison have taken many steps to show their support to keeping the prison open. The towns have signs, people adorning tee-shirts, they held a parade with a lot of support, a town picture was taken, many meetings have been held and alot of praying is being done. We need the Pontiac Prison to remain open. The facts have not proven beyond a reasonable doubt that it should close. Please take the time, with out all of the options and make the right decision. Keep PONTIAC PRISON open.

Sincerely,

Kay E Rbleger

August 6, 2008



Senator Jeff Schoenberg - Co-Chairman
Representative Rich Meyers - Co-Chairman
Commission on Government
Forecasting and Accountability
703 Stratton Office Building
Springfield, Il 62706

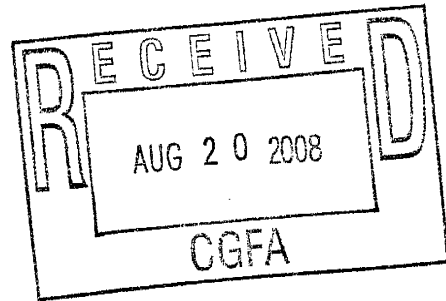
Dear Senator Schoenberg and Representative Meyers:

Please re-consider this issue of closing Pontiac Prison. By now you have seen a lot of effort go into trying to make this not happen. The area towns surrounding the prison have taken many steps to show their support to keeping the prison open. The towns have signs, people adorning tee-shirts, they held a parade with a lot of support, a town picture was taken, many meetings have been held and a lot of praying is being done. We need the Pontiac Prison to remain open. The facts have not proven beyond a reasonable doubt that it should close. Please take the time, with out all of the options and make the right decision. Keep PONTIAC PRISON open.

Sincerely,

Steve & Kathy Popovich

August 6, 2008



Senator Jeff Schoenberg - Co-Chairman
Representative Rich Meyers - Co-Chairman
Commission on Government
Forecasting and Accountability
703 Stratton Office Building
Springfield, IL 62706

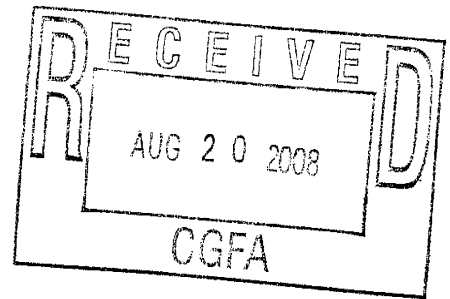
Dear Senator Schoenberg and Representative Meyers:

Please re-consider this issue of closing Pontiac Prison. By now you have seen a lot of effort go into trying to make this not happen. The area towns surrounding the prison have taken many steps to show their support to keeping the prison open. The towns have signs, people adorning tee-shirts, they held a parade with a lot of support, a town picture was taken, many meetings have been held and a lot of praying is being done. We need the Pontiac Prison to remain open. The facts have not proven beyond a reasonable doubt that it should close. Please take the time, with out all of the options and make the right decision. Keep PONTIAC PRISON open.

Sincerely,

Ellen M Spencer

August 6, 2008



Senator Jeff Schoenberg - Co-Chairman
Representative Rich Meyers - Co-Chairman
Commission on Government
Forecasting and Accountability
703 Stratton Office Building
Springfield, Il 62706

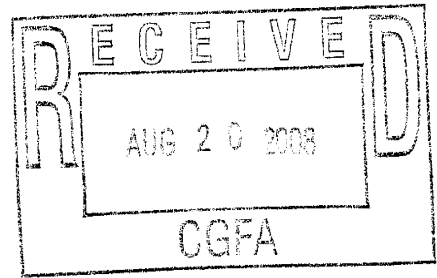
Dear Senator Schoenberg and Representative Meyers:

Please re-consider this issue of closing Pontiac Prison. By now you have seen a lot of effort go into trying to make this not happen. The area towns surrounding the prison have taken many steps to show their support to keeping the prison open. The towns have signs, people adorning tee-shirts, they held a parade with a lot of support, a town picture was taken, many meetings have been held and a lot of praying is being done. We need the Pontiac Prison to remain open. The facts have not proven beyond a reasonable doubt that it should close. Please take the time, with out all of the options and make the right decision. Keep PONTIAC PRISON open.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Ed Rich".

August 6, 2008



Senator Jeff Schoenberg - Co-Chairman
Representative Rich Meyers - Co-Chairman
Commission on Government
Forecasting and Accountability
703 Stratton Office Building
Springfield, Il 62706

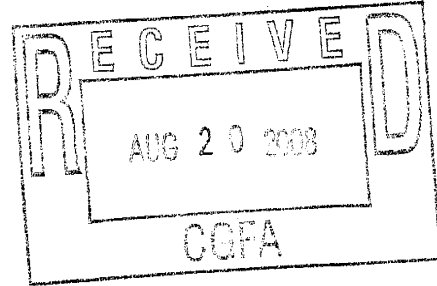
Dear Senator Schoenberg and Representative Meyers:

Please re-consider this issue of closing Pontiac Prison. By now you have seen a lot of effort go into trying to make this not happen. The areas surrounding the prison have taken many steps to show the support to keeping the prison open. The town have signs, people adorning the shirts, they held a parade with a lot of support, a town picture was taken, many meeting have been held and a lot of praying. We need the Pontiac Prison to remain open. The facts have not proven beyond a reasonable doubt that it should close. Please take the time, weigh out all options and make the right decision,

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Sandy Sheppard". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned below the word "Sincerely,".

August 6, 2008



Senator Jeff Schoenberg - Co-Chairman
Representative Rich Meyers - Co-Chairman
Commission on Government
Forecasting and Accountability
703 Stratton Office Building
Springfield, Il 62706

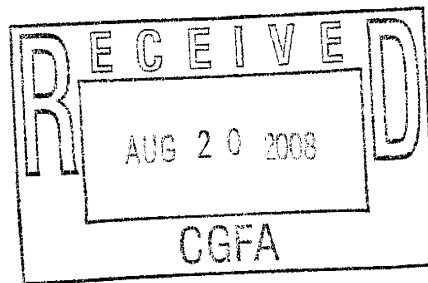
Dear Senator Schoenberg and Representative Meyers:

Please re-consider this issue of closing Pontiac Prison. By now you have seen a lot of effort go into trying to make this not happen. The areas surrounding the prison have taken many steps to show the support to keeping the prison open. The town have signs, people adorning the shirts, they held a parade with a lot of support, a town picture was taken, many meeting have been held and a lot of praying. We need the Pontiac Prison to remain open. The facts have not proven beyond a reasonable doubt that it should close. Please take the time, weigh out all options and make the right decision,

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Barbara J. Gallys".

August 6, 2008



Senator Jeff Schoenberg - Co-Chairman
Representative Rich Meyers - Co-Chairman
Commission on Government
Forecasting and Accountability
703 Stratton Office Building
Springfield, Il 62706

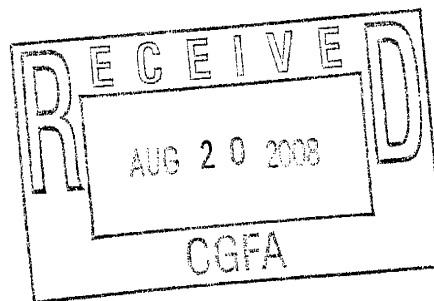
Dear Senator Schoenberg and Representative Meyers:

Please re-consider this issue of closing Pontiac Prison. By now you have seen a lot of effort go into trying to make this not happen. The areas surrounding the prison have taken many steps to show the support to keeping the prison open. The town have signs, people adorning the shirts, they held a parade with a lot of support, a town picture was taken, many meeting have been held and a lot of praying. We need the Pontiac Prison to remain open. The facts have not proven beyond a reasonable doubt that it should close. Please take the time, weigh out all options and make the right decision,

Sincerely,

Lair Good

August 6, 2008



Senator Jeff Schoenberg - Co-Chairman
Representative Rich Meyers - Co-Chairman
Commission on Government
Forecasting and Accountability
703 Stratton Office Building
Springfield, Il 62706

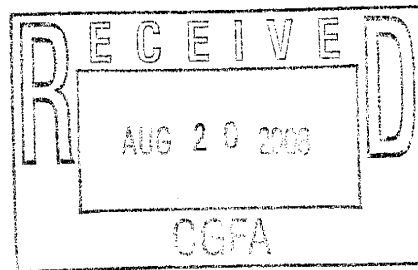
Dear Senator Schoenberg and Representative Meyers:

Please re-consider this issue of closing Pontiac Prison. By now you have seen a lot of effort go into trying to make this not happen. The area towns surrounding the prison have taken many steps to show their support to keeping the prison open. The towns have signs, people adorning tee-shirts, they held a parade with a lot of support, a town picture was taken, many meetings have been held and alot of praying is being done. We need the Pontiac Prison to remain open. The facts have not proven beyond a reasonable doubt that it should close. Please take the time, with out all of the options and make the right decision. Keep PONTIAC PRISON open.

Sincerely,

Linda Bhodes
GB

August 6, 2008



Senator Jeff Schoenberg - Co-Chairman
Representative Rich Meyers - Co-Chairman
Commission on Government
Forecasting and Accountability
703 Stratton Office Building
Springfield, Il 62706

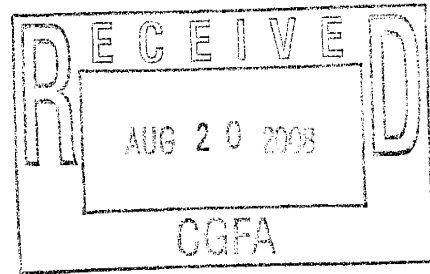
Dear Senator Schoenberg and Representative Meyers:

Please re-consider this issue of closing Pontiac Prison. By now you have seen a lot of effort go into trying to make this not happen. The area towns surrounding the prison have taken many steps to show their support to keeping the prison open. The towns have signs, people adorning tee-shirts, they held a parade with a lot of support, a town picture was taken, many meetings have been held and alot of praying is being done. We need the Pontiac Prison to remain open. The facts have not proven beyond a reasonable doubt that it should close. Please take the time, with out all of the options and make the right decision. Keep PONTIAC PRISON open.

Sincerely,

LeRae Young

August 6, 2008



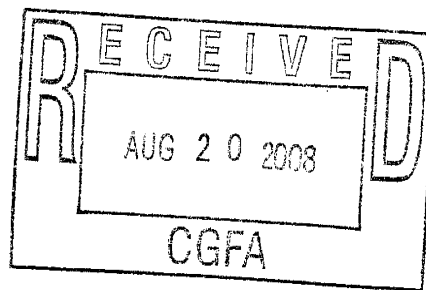
Senator Jeff Schoenberg - Co-Chairman
Representative Rich Meyers - Co-Chairman
Commission on Government
Forecasting and Accountability
703 Stratton Office Building
Springfield, IL 62706

Dear Senator Schoenberg and Representative Meyers:

Please re-consider this issue of closing Pontiac Prison. By now you have seen a lot of effort go into trying to make this not happen. The area towns surrounding the prison have taken many steps to show their support to keeping the prison open. The towns have signs, people adorning tee-shirts, they held a parade with a lot of support, a town picture was taken, many meetings have been held and a lot of praying is being done. We need the Pontiac Prison to remain open. The facts have not proven beyond a reasonable doubt that it should close. Please take the time, with out all of the options and make the right decision. Keep PONTIAC PRISON open.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "John Ribbs".



August 6, 2008

Senator Jeff Schoenberg - Co-Chairman
Representative Rich Meyers - Co-Chairman
Commission on Government
Forecasting and Accountability
703 Stratton Office Building
Springfield, IL 62706

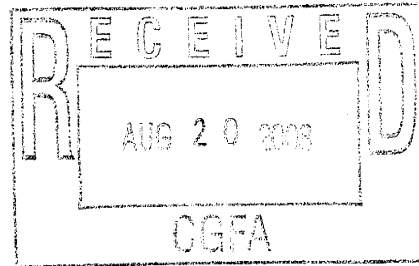
Dear Senator Schoenberg and Representative Meyers:

Please re-consider this issue of closing Pontiac Prison. By now you have seen a lot of effort go into trying to make this not happen. The area towns surrounding the prison have taken many steps to show their support to keeping the prison open. The towns have signs, people adorning tee-shirts, they held a parade with a lot of support, a town picture was taken, many meetings have been held and a lot of praying is being done. We need the Pontiac Prison to remain open. The facts have not proven beyond a reasonable doubt that it should close. Please take the time, with out all of the options and make the right decision. Keep PONTIAC PRISON open.

Sincerely,

Michael J Eruck

August 6, 2008



Senator Jeff Schoenberg - Co-Chairman
Representative Rich Meyers - Co-Chairman
Commission on Government
Forecasting and Accountability
703 Stratton Office Building
Springfield, IL 62706

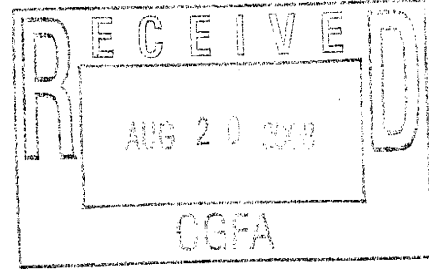
Dear Senator Schoenberg and Representative Meyers:

Please re-consider this issue of closing Pontiac Prison. By now you have seen a lot of effort go into trying to make this not happen. The area towns surrounding the prison have taken many steps to show their support to keeping the prison open. The towns have signs, people adorning tee-shirts, they held a parade with a lot of support, a town picture was taken, many meetings have been held and a lot of praying is being done. We need the Pontiac Prison to remain open. The facts have not proven beyond a reasonable doubt that it should close. Please take the time, with out all of the options and make the right decision. Keep PONTIAC PRISON open.

Sincerely,

Kate Schlappe

August 6, 2008



Senator Jeff Schoenberg - Co-Chairman
Representative Rich Meyers - Co-Chairman
Commission on Government
Forecasting and Accountability
703 Stratton Office Building
Springfield, IL 62706

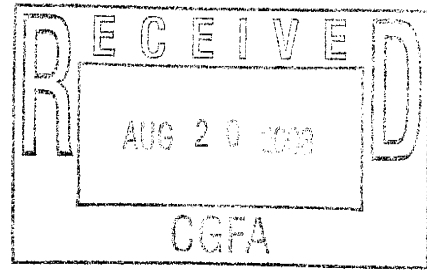
Dear Senator Schoenberg and Representative Meyers:

Please re-consider this issue of closing Pontiac Prison. By now you have seen a lot of effort go into trying to make this not happen. The area towns surrounding the prison have taken many steps to show their support to keeping the prison open. The towns have signs, people adorning tee-shirts, they held a parade with a lot of support, a town picture was taken, many meetings have been held and a lot of praying is being done. We need the Pontiac Prison to remain open. The facts have not proven beyond a reasonable doubt that it should close. Please take the time, without all of the options and make the right decision. Keep PONTIAC PRISON open.

Sincerely,

Ellis E. Deemer

August 6, 2008



Senator Jeff Schoenberg - Co-Chairman
Representative Rich Meyers - Co-Chairman
Commission on Government
Forecasting and Accountability
703 Stratton Office Building
Springfield, Il 62706

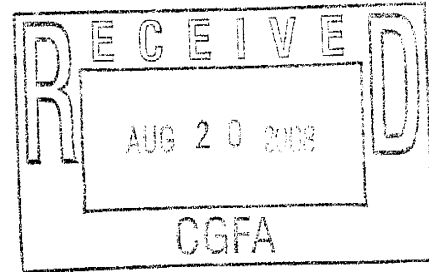
Dear Senator Schoenberg and Representative Meyers:

Please re-consider this issue of closing Pontiac Prison. By now you have seen a lot of effort go into trying to make this not happen. The area towns surrounding the prison have taken many steps to show their support to keeping the prison open. The towns have signs, people adorning tee-shirts, they held a parade with a lot of support, a town picture was taken, many meetings have been held and a lot of praying is being done. We need the Pontiac Prison to remain open. The facts have not proven beyond a reasonable doubt that it should close. Please take the time, without all of the options and make the right decision. Keep PONTIAC PRISON open.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Kevin Morgan".

August 6, 2008



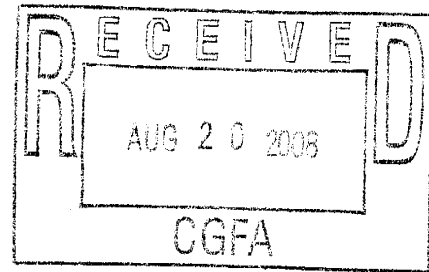
Senator Jeff Schoenberg - Co-Chairman
Representative Rich Meyers - Co-Chairman
Commission on Government
Forecasting and Accountability
703 Stratton Office Building
Springfield, Il 62706

Dear Senator Schoenberg and Representative Meyers:

Please re-consider this issue of closing Pontiac Prison. By now you have seen a lot of effort go into trying to make this not happen. The area towns surrounding the prison have taken many steps to show their support to keeping the prison open. The towns have signs, people adorning tee-shirts, they held a parade with a lot of support, a town picture was taken, many meetings have been held and a lot of praying is being done. We need the Pontiac Prison to remain open. The facts have not proven beyond a reasonable doubt that it should close. Please take the time, with out all of the options and make the right decision. Keep PONTIAC PRISON open.

Sincerely,

August 6, 2008



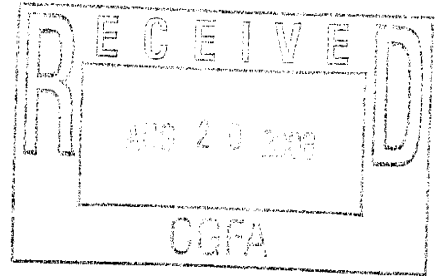
Senator Jeff Schoenberg - Co-Chairman
Representative Rich Meyers - Co-Chairman
Commission on Government
Forecasting and Accountability
703 Stratton Office Building
Springfield, IL 62706

Dear Senator Schoenberg and Representative Meyers:

Please re-consider this issue of closing Pontiac Prison. By now you have seen a lot of effort go into trying to make this not happen. The areas surrounding the prison have taken many steps to show the support to keeping the prison open. The town have signs, people adorning the shirts, they held a parade with a lot of support, a town picture was taken, many meeting have been held and a lot of praying. We need the Pontiac Prison to remain open. The facts have not proven beyond a reasonable doubt that it should close. Please take the time, weigh out all options and make the right decision,

Sincerely,

Leon & Louise Gray



August 6, 2008

Senator Jeff Schoenberg - Co-Chairman
Representative Rich Meyers - Co-Chairman
Commission on Government
Forecasting and Accountability
703 Stratton Office Building
Springfield, IL 62706

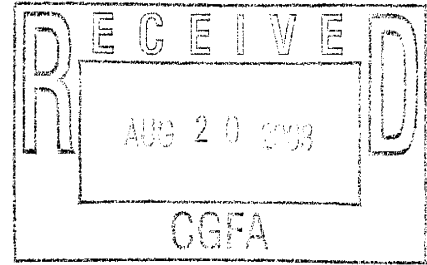
Dear Senator Schoenberg and Representative Meyers:

Please re-consider this issue of closing Pontiac Prison. By now you have seen a lot of effort go into trying to make this not happen. The areas surrounding the prison have taken many steps to show the support to keeping the prison open. The town have signs, people adorning the shirts, they held a parade with a lot of support, a town picture was taken, many meeting have been held and a lot of praying. We need the Pontiac Prison to remain open. The facts have not proven beyond a reasonable doubt that it should close. Please take the time, weigh out all options and make the right decision,

Sincerely,

Dorothy L. Johnson
24 Garden Av.
Pontiac, Il. 61744

August 6, 2008



Senator Jeff Schoenberg - Co-Chairman
Representative Rich Meyers - Co-Chairman
Commission on Government
Forecasting and Accountability
703 Stratton Office Building
Springfield, Il 62706

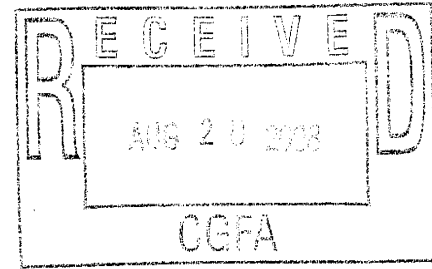
Dear Senator Schoenberg and Representative Meyers:

Please re-consider this issue of closing Pontiac Prison. By now you have seen a lot of effort go into trying to make this not happen. The area towns surrounding the prison have taken many steps to show their support to keeping the prison open. The towns have signs, people adorning tee-shirts, they held a parade with a lot of support, a town picture was taken, many meetings have been held and alot of praying is being done. We need the Pontiac Prison to remain open. The facts have not proven beyond a reasonable doubt that it should close. Please take the time, with out all of the options and make the right decision. Keep PONTIAC PRISON open.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Rich & Bob Pallett". The signature is written in dark ink and extends across the width of the page.

August 6, 2008



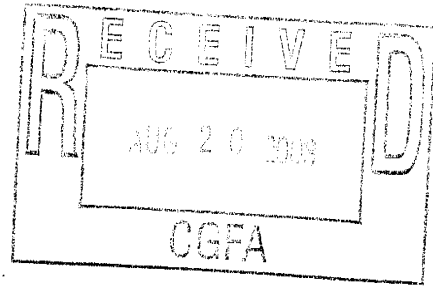
Senator Jeff Schoenberg - Co-Chairman
Representative Rich Meyers - Co-Chairman
Commission on Government
Forecasting and Accountability
703 Stratton Office Building
Springfield, IL 62706

Dear Senator Schoenberg and Representative Meyers:

Please re-consider this issue of closing Pontiac Prison. By now you have seen a lot of effort go into trying to make this not happen. The area towns surrounding the prison have taken many steps to show their support to keeping the prison open. The towns have signs, people adorning tee-shirts, they held a parade with a lot of support, a town picture was taken, many meetings have been held and a lot of praying is being done. We need the Pontiac Prison to remain open. The facts have not proven beyond a reasonable doubt that it should close. Please take the time, without all of the options and make the right decision. Keep PONTIAC PRISON open.

Sincerely,

Ruth C. Schlosser



August 6, 2008

Senator Jeff Schoenberg - Co-Chairman
Representative Rich Meyers - Co-Chairman
Commission on Government
Forecasting and Accountability
703 Stratton Office Building
Springfield, Il 62706

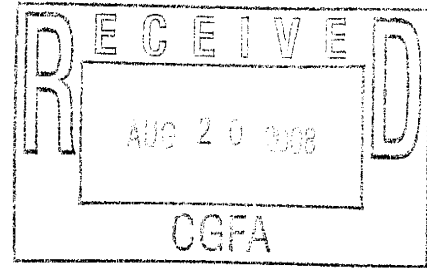
Dear Senator Schoenberg and Representative Meyers:

Please re-consider this issue of closing Pontiac Prison. By now you have seen a lot of effort go into trying to make this not happen. The area towns surrounding the prison have taken many steps to show their support to keeping the prison open. The towns have signs, people adorning tee-shirts, they held a parade with a lot of support, a town picture was taken, many meetings have been held and alot of praying is being done. We need the Pontiac Prison to remain open. The facts have not proven beyond a reasonable doubt that it should close. Please take the time, with out all of the options and make the right decision. Keep PONTIAC PRISON open.

Sincerely,

Olivia Hanson

August 6, 2008



Senator Jeff Schoenberg - Co-Chairman
Representative Rich Meyers - Co-Chairman
Commission on Government
Forecasting and Accountability
703 Stratton Office Building
Springfield, Il 62706

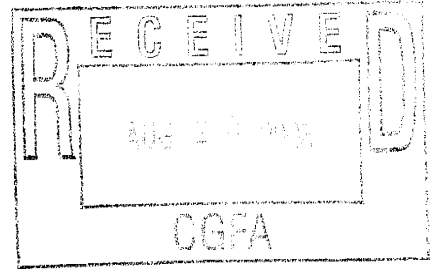
Dear Senator Schoenberg and Representative Meyers:

Please re-consider this issue of closing Pontiac Prison. By now you have seen a lot of effort go into trying to make this not happen. The area towns surrounding the prison have taken many steps to show their support to keeping the prison open. The towns have signs, people adorning tee-shirts, they held a parade with a lot of support, a town picture was taken, many meetings have been held and alot of praying is being done. We need the Pontiac Prison to remain open. The facts have not proven beyond a reasonable doubt that it should close. Please take the time, with out all of the options and make the right decision. Keep PONTIAC PRISON open.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Kim A. Edman".

August 6, 2008



Senator Jeff Schoenberg - Co-Chairman
Representative Rich Meyers - Co-Chairman
Commission on Government
Forecasting and Accountability
703 Stratton Office Building
Springfield, Il 62706

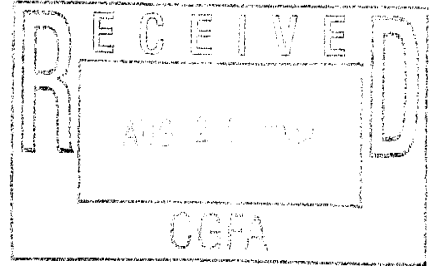
Dear Senator Schoenberg and Representative Meyers:

Please re-consider this issue of closing Pontiac Prison. By now you have seen a lot of effort go into trying to make this not happen. The area towns surrounding the prison have taken many steps to show their support to keeping the prison open. The towns have signs, people adorning tee-shirts, they held a parade with a lot of support, a town picture was taken, many meetings have been held and alot of praying is being done. We need the Pontiac Prison to remain open. The facts have not proven beyond a reasonable doubt that it should close. Please take the time, with out all of the options and make the right decision. Keep PONTIAC PRISON open.

Sincerely,

John Nanni

August 6, 2008



Senator Jeff Schoenberg - Co-Chairman
Representative Rich Meyers - Co-Chairman
Commission on Government
Forecasting and Accountability
703 Stratton Office Building
Springfield, Il 62706

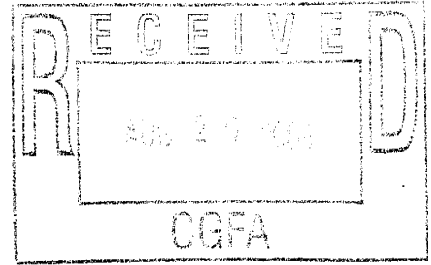
Dear Senator Schoenberg and Representative Meyers:

Please re-consider this issue of closing Pontiac Prison. By now you have seen a lot of effort go into trying to make this not happen. The area towns surrounding the prison have taken many steps to show their support to keeping the prison open. The towns have signs, people adorning tee-shirts, they held a parade with a lot of support, a town picture was taken, many meetings have been held and alot of praying is being done. We need the Pontiac Prison to remain open. The facts have not proven beyond a reasonable doubt that it should close. Please take the time, with out all of the options and make the right decision. Keep PONTIAC PRISON open.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be "Chris White".

August 6, 2008



Senator Jeff Schoenberg - Co-Chairman
Representative Rich Meyers - Co-Chairman
Commission on Government
Forecasting and Accountability
703 Stratton Office Building
Springfield, Il 62706

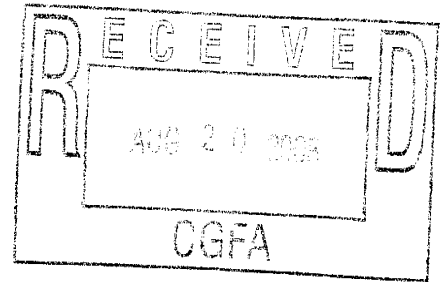
Dear Senator Schoenberg and Representative Meyers:

Please re-consider this issue of closing Pontiac Prison. By now you have seen a lot of effort go into trying to make this not happen. The area towns surrounding the prison have taken many steps to show their support to keeping the prison open. The towns have signs, people adorning tee-shirts, they held a parade with a lot of support, a town picture was taken, many meetings have been held and alot of praying is being done. We need the Pontiac Prison to remain open. The facts have not proven beyond a reasonable doubt that it should close. Please take the time, with out all of the options and make the right decision. Keep PONTIAC PRISON open.

Sincerely,

Kathryn & Thomas Altman

August 6, 2008



Senator Jeff Schoenberg - Co-Chairman
Representative Rich Meyers - Co-Chairman
Commission on Government
Forecasting and Accountability
703 Stratton Office Building
Springfield, Il 62706

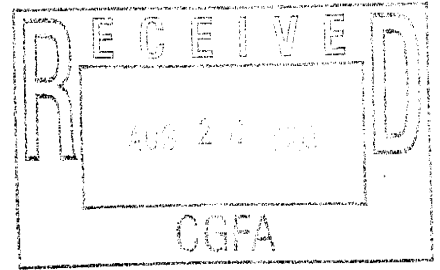
Dear Senator Schoenberg and Representative Meyers:

Please re-consider this issue of closing Pontiac Prison. By now you have seen a lot of effort go into trying to make this not happen. The area towns surrounding the prison have taken many steps to show their support to keeping the prison open. The towns have signs, people adorning tee-shirts, they held a parade with a lot of support, a town picture was taken, many meetings have been held and alot of praying is being done. We need the Pontiac Prison to remain open. The facts have not proven beyond a reasonable doubt that it should close. Please take the time, with out all of the options and make the right decision. Keep PONTIAC PRISON open.

Sincerely,

James M. Nalove

August 6, 2008



Senator Jeff Schoenberg - Co-Chairman
Representative Rich Meyers - Co-Chairman
Commission on Government
Forecasting and Accountability
703 Stratton Office Building
Springfield, Il 62706

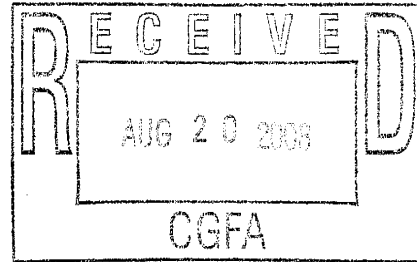
Dear Senator Schoenberg and Representative Meyers:

Please re-consider this issue of closing Pontiac Prison. By now you have seen a lot of effort go into trying to make this not happen. The area towns surrounding the prison have taken many steps to show their support to keeping the prison open. The towns have signs, people adorning tee-shirts, they held a parade with a lot of support, a town picture was taken, many meetings have been held and a lot of praying is being done. We need the Pontiac Prison to remain open. The facts have not proven beyond a reasonable doubt that it should close. Please take the time, with out all of the options and make the right decision. Keep PONTIAC PRISON open.

Sincerely,

Steven L. Conrad

August 6, 2008



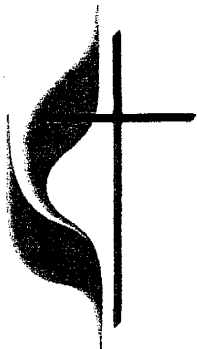
Senator Jeff Schoenberg - Co-Chairman
Representative Rich Meyers - Co-Chairman
Commission on Government
Forecasting and Accountability
703 Stratton Office Building
Springfield, IL 62706

Dear Senator Schoenberg and Representative Meyers:

Please re-consider this issue of closing Pontiac Prison. By now you have seen a lot of effort go into trying to make this not happen. The area towns surrounding the prison have taken many steps to show their support to keeping the prison open. The towns have signs, people adorning tee-shirts, they held a parade with a lot of support, a town picture was taken, many meetings have been held and a lot of praying is being done. We need the Pontiac Prison to remain open. The facts have not proven beyond a reasonable doubt that it should close. Please take the time, without all of the options and make the right decision. Keep PONTIAC PRISON open.

Sincerely,

Marsha Vitale



SAUNEMIN UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

90 NORTH STREET
SAUNEMIN, ILLINOIS 61769

Church (815) 832-4935
Residence (815) 832-4370

15 August A.D. 2008

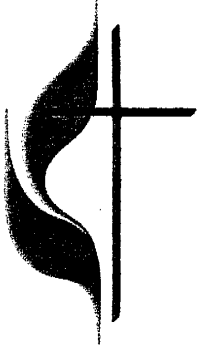
Senator Jeff Schoenberg, Co-Chairman
Representative Rich Meyers, Co-Chairman
Commission on Government
Forecasting and Accountability
703 Stratton Office Building
Springfield, Illinois 62706

Dear Senator Schoenberg and Representative Meyers,

May this word of greeting find you both well! The people and pastor of Saunemin United Methodist Church write to you with regard to the possible closing of Pontiac Correctional Center.

We strongly urge the reconsideration of its closing and do so for the following reasons:

1. The prison employs around 570 persons, or so. To relocate or to "let-go" these persons could affect 1,000 or more total family members including spouses and children.
2. What happens to the spouses, etc., of the prison workers? Those working would also lose their jobs. Will there be jobs awaiting them at or near the new location?
3. Children will be up-rooted from their schools, neighborhoods and friends, and perhaps other relatives. This could prove to be traumatic to many!
4. Assuming that many spouses of prison workers are now working in and around the Pontiac area, when they all leave, who will be left to fill their vacated positions? Local businesses would lose many key workers which could devastate some businesses.
5. Schools would be hit very hard especially if a good number of children and youth are gone. Smaller classes could mean the dismissal of certified and non-certified staff. Fewer students would also result in less financial state aid.
6. Property values in the Pontiac area could be affected. If the prison workers move "in mass" who will buy their homes? With the prison jobs gone, what incentives are there to attract new families to Pontiac to buy the vacated homes of the prison workers?



SAUNEMIN UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

90 NORTH STREET
SAUNEMIN, ILLINOIS 61769

Church (815) 832-4935
Residence (815) 832-4370

7. Taking an estimated \$45 million dollars from the Pontiac economy could cause the closing of some businesses who are now struggling.

Taking \$45 million from one area to create \$47 million in another area is a "wash." For example, if most of the Pontiac employees are transferred to the new prison site, few new jobs are created at the new site.

8. Pontiac would not be the only community affected. Some employees reside in outlying, smaller communities. Concerns listed in items 1-7 above could be even harder on them. The closing of Pontiac Center could have a far-reaching, ripple affect!

9. Our most recent understanding is that, generally speaking, throughout our country, prisons are over-crowded. Presumably, this is true in Illinois as well. Therefore, it seems that NO prisons should be closed, but that ALL existing ones remain open!

Saunemin United Methodist Church respectfully seeks your support in urging the Governor to keep Pontiac Correctional Center open! Thank you for your kind consideration and efforts!

Sincerely,

Robert Bradford, Chairperson

Saunemin United Methodist Church Administrative Council

Rev. Dr. David L. Phillips, Pastor

Saunemin United Methodist Church, Saunemin, Illinois



JUL 30 2008

Cheri,

Sorry I can't be there for the meeting
Hopefully the resolution will help. I sent 2 copies.
Let me know if there is anything else we
can do. You are doing a great job. Keep up
the fight.

Ray Whitehouse

210 S. East Street | P.O. Box 1586
Bloomington, IL 61702-1586
ph. 309.829.6344
fax 309.827.3940

www.mcleancochamber.org



RESOLUTION

The Board of Directors of the McLean County Chamber of Commerce is asked to oppose the Department of Corrections and the Governor's decision to close Pontiac Correctional Center.

Explanation: The closing of the Pontiac Correctional Center will result in a downturn in area economic growth. The Correctional Center provides 600 jobs and purchases goods and services from local and regional businesses. Closing the center would create a ripple effect on surrounding towns and counties that would hurt investment. The Department of Corrections is allowing employees to move to new facilities and retain their jobs, but this takes money out of our local markets.

The Mclean County Chamber of Commerce is an advocate for businesses within McLean County and within Illinois.

8/12/2008



Policy Statement:

The McLean County Chamber of Commerce supports the Pontiac Correctional Center!

WHEREAS:

Pontiac Correctional Center is an integral part of our area's economy, providing 600 jobs and purchasing goods and services from numerous local and regional businesses; and

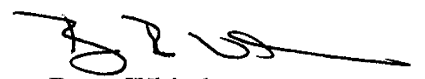
WHEREAS:

The jobs provided at Pontiac Correctional Center pay fair wages and benefits, bringing greater economic stability to area communities where its employees reside.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED:

That the McLean County Chamber of Commerce affirms its opposition to the Illinois Department of Corrections planned closure of the Pontiac Correctional Center and calls on Governor Blagojevich to halt all plans to close the facility.


Michael Holzworth
Executive Director


Ryan Whitehouse
Government Affairs Director

8/12/2008



RESOLUTION

The Board of Directors of the McLean County Chamber of Commerce is asked to oppose the Department of Corrections and the Governor's decision to close Pontiac Correctional Center.

Explanation: The closing of the Pontiac Correctional Center will result in a downturn in area economic growth. The Correctional Center provides 600 jobs and purchases goods and services from local and regional businesses. Closing the center would create a ripple effect on surrounding towns and counties that would hurt investment. The Department of Corrections is allowing employees to move to new facilities and retain their jobs, but this takes money out of our local markets.

The Mclean County Chamber of Commerce is an advocate for businesses within McLean County and within Illinois.

8/12/2008



Policy Statement:

The McLean County Chamber of Commerce supports the Pontiac Correctional Center!

WHEREAS:

Pontiac Correctional Center is an integral part of our area's economy, providing 600 jobs and purchasing goods and services from numerous local and regional businesses; and

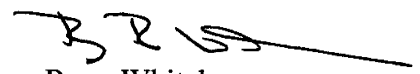
WHEREAS:

The jobs provided at Pontiac Correctional Center pay fair wages and benefits, bringing greater economic stability to area communities where its employees reside.

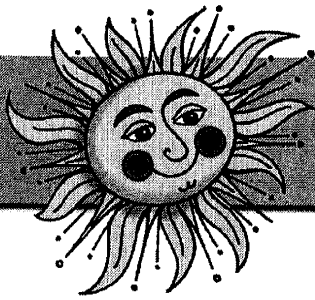
THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED:

That the McLean County Chamber of Commerce affirms its opposition to the Illinois Department of Corrections planned closure of the Pontiac Correctional Center and calls on Governor Blagojevich to halt all plans to close the facility.


Michael Holzworth
Executive Director


Ryan Whitehouse
Government Affairs Director

8/12/2008



Pontiac RV

August 6, 2008

To Whom It May Concern:

We at, Pontiac RV strongly urge you to reconsider the decision to possibly closing Pontiac Correctional Center.

The closing would impact not only the PCC employees directly but the entire central part of Illinois. Pontiac RV is a family owned and operated retail business that employs approximately 40-50 people. We feel that our business would be severely impacted by the closing of PCC and subsequent loss of jobs, that we would potentially, be forced to lay off personnel. We are just one of the many businesses indirectly affected by the closing of PCC.

Additionally, the large amounts of state sales tax that Pontiac RV has generated, over the past 29 years, would be substantially less as our gross sales revenue would most likely decline. Therefore, impacting far beyond our local economy.

Again we are requesting that you keep Pontiac Correctional Center open for these and the many other reasons that have been presented over the past few months.

Kent Kafer
Owner/General Manager

Kevin Kafer
Owner/Service Manager

Courtney Farrell
Owner/Business Manager

Pontiac RV, Pontiac IL
Quality RV, McLean IL
El Paso RV, El Paso IL

15481 E. 2000 N. Rd.
Pontiac, IL 61764

www.pontiacrv.com

815-844-5000
800-729-5419
Fax 815-844-7197

August 3, 2008

312 N Douglas
Cornell, IL 61319

Dear Senator Jeff Schoenberg and Representative Rich Myers:

I have spent hours outlining this letter and finally decided to scrap the outline and just write from the heart.

It is pretty well known that the governor does not like Dan Rutherford. Why, oh why, does the governor take his dislike of our elected official out on the prison guards and families of Central Illinois and for the second time?

Many of the employees were hit hard by the flood earlier this year and this just adds insult to injury. I lost my job due to business closure a few years ago and I left my wife and children behind and traveled to North Carolina, Chicago, and Minnesota to earn a paycheck. I missed my 2 youngest kids' school events, etc., not to mention not being here when I was needed the most for discipline, love, etc. Families are going to be split apart, move away, and/or go on unemployment. In addition to the approximate 600 jobs lost, spouses will have to try and obtain employment in small towns near Thomson or remain here and see their spouse on weekends. All guards will probably not be offered the opportunity to transfer. That will be the case for my son as only 1 graduating class has less seniority than his. No one will want to buy his home.

In addition, services and goods provided to PCC will no longer be needed which will affect even more businesses and people. If I understand, 800 new beds will be available at Thomson. The prisons are all ready overcrowded and understaffed. Two hundred prisoners will be transferred to Stateville which has very few single cells where the segs, mentally ill, and protective custody mandate single cells. Again if my research is correct, Thomson was not built to accommodate the aforementioned. Stateville and Pinckeyville will be at risk to the prisoners and staff even more than now. The budget includes funding for keeping Pontiac open, so why is the governor doing this????????? I have not seen any proof that this closure will save the State a single dime.

For the benefit of Livingston County, local schools, etc., the staff and families, the prisoners and their families, I pray the Pontiac Correctional Center will stay open.

Sincerely,

Joe Mayback

July 31, 2008

Senator Jeff Schoenberg, Co-Chair
Representative Rich Myers, Co-Chair
Commission on Government
Forecasting and Accountability
703 Stratton Office Building
Springfield, IL 62706

Re: Proposed Pontiac Correctional Center Closure

Dear Senator Jeff Schoenberg and Representative Rich Myers,

I have frequently had the pleasure of interacting with the staff of Bank of Pontiac due to my work responsibilities and through these relationships I have become familiar with the good people of Pontiac. As a resident of Aurora with an outside perspective, I have been impressed by the friendly atmosphere of the community and the willingness of the citizens to work together to achieve the common good. The recent flood and the response demonstrated the strong character of this community.

My correspondence is intended to respectfully express my concerns regarding the proposed closure of Pontiac Correctional Center. This facility has been in existence for over one hundred years and remains a significant local employer providing wages and benefits to city residents. In my opinion, the relatively large impact of closing the center on the community should be strongly considered. The majority of the existing prison staff will likely have to relocate, removing them from the city and the surrounding areas. Additionally, the timing of this proposal is having a negative impact on the local economy and the ability of the residents of Pontiac to recover from the flooding that occurred earlier this year. As those who were affected by the flood try to rebuild their lives, the potential loss of this significant employer depreciates the marketability of their homes and places additional burdens on the recovery process.

I respectfully ask that you reconsider the timing of this proposed closure and the devastating impact the loss of the Pontiac Correctional Center will have on the local community.

Sincerely,

Michael Eldridge

To: State Officials and
All Concerned Citizens
From: James E. Rodgers
IDOC#B-79028
Date: July 27, 2008

RE: OPPOSING THE CLOSING OF PONTIAC CORRECTIONAL CENTER

To whom it may concern:

It is my hope that your office, and all concerned citizens, will take into consideration a prisoner's view on closing Pontiac Correctional Center (PCC).

Without doubt, everyone with a vested interest on this topic has an opinion. The Governor and Illinois Department of Corrections (IDOC) all desire to fix a budget crisis. Residents of the Pontiac area all want to preserve their community that would be devastated by closing (PCC). Even a prisoner, like myself, has a personal interest in keeping (PCC) open.

Although I cannot (and do not) speak for every prisoner within the (IDOC), or even for (PCC) prisoners, I am able to share with you some personal insight gained during my past (13) years of incarceration.

During my time served, thus far, in the (IDOC) I've experienced confinement at four different maximum security facilities (Menard, Stateville, Pontiac and the former Joliet Correctional Center). Each of these prisons have things in common and yet, each have distinctive qualities that set them apart from other facilities. One of the most interesting things commonly said by fellow prisoners who have also been to other facilities is- "If you gotta do time in a max joint--the 'YAK' [Pontiac] is the place to be."

Please don't mistake this comment as a sign that (PCC) is some type of "boy's camp". I assure you--it's not. (PCC) has been and continues to be a place to do serious time. The real point to be made here is that most of the staff at (PCC) treat prisoners with dignity. Even my loved ones who typically visit me, more often, while I'm at (PCC) often comment on how courteous the staff are during processing them for a visit. These are only two of the many more reasons I could give that sets (PCC) apart from other prisons.

The overall attitude at (PCC) is to be "firm but fair". That's all any reasonable prisoner could ever ask for. Personally, I attribute the quality of character and professionalism found at (PCC) to the community of Pontiac. And, for those reasons, among many others, my sympathy and prayers go out towards the people of Pontiac at a time when things look so uncertain.

Now, turning to the more direct purpose for this letter. Closing (PCC) would be a great disservice to prisoners. For starters, the State of Illinois would essentially be eliminating about 1600 beds to place the ever growing state prison population. The loss of so many beds would significantly contribute to even more prison overcrowding. That is a VERY dangerous concern for both prison staff and prisoners alike. And further, it is illogical to believe that simply shifting a group of prisoners from (PCC) to the newly built Thomson Correctional Center will somehow, magically cure the budget problem faced by the State. Think about it. The same funds used to keep prisoners at (PCC) will also be required ANYWHERE that same group of prisoners are kept.

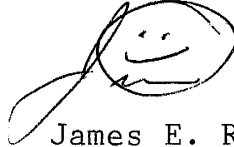
Also, by relocating prisoners at (PCC) all the system has managed to accomplish is to displace many prisoners farther away from loved ones. Correctional experts are well aware of the positive impact and rehabilitative benefits derived through stronger community ties between the prisoner and loved ones. Making it more difficult for prisoners to receive visits from loved ones, by creating longer distances to be travelled is counter productive towards rehabilitative goals.

Ultimately, closing (PCC) would, to some degree, impose an atypical and significant hardship on the prisoners. Even though these concerns by a prisoner in relation to overcrowding and being able to maintain a better quality of community ties may not be the most controlling factor to be considered in a decision of this magnitude—it still should be considered. After all, our system of government and social morals require a balance of serving out the demands of justice while preserving a prisoner's safety, security and even dignity during incarceration. This is how any society with an evolved sense of right and wrong should function.

As a prisoner, I do not presume to know how a prison should be managed. Although, I could offer a few suggestions, if asked, as to where state officials might begin to look for areas of fiscal mismanagement by the (IDOC). The point is that state leaders need to quite using the prison system as some political chess board to entrench themselves in their ELECTED positions. At some point the very people politicians count on to get them into office will not have that much needed vote. That is because much resentment will be harbored in the hearts of those who were neglected in a time of need. A prisoner may not be able to vote, but family and friends do. So do the people of Pontiac.

In closing, I will trust that your office and those with a voice to be heard will do the prudent thing and make every effort to keep Pontiac Correctional Center safe from being closed.

Respectfully Submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, consisting of a circular shape with a smiling face inside, and a long, sweeping line extending from the left side.

James E. Rodgers
Menard Correctional Center
P.O. Box 711 #B79028
Menard, Illinois 62259-0711

July 28, 2008

Senator Jeff Schoenberg - Co-Chairman
Representative Rich Myers - Co-Chairman
Commission of Government
Forecasting and Accountability
703 Stratton Office Building
Springfield, IL 62706

Dear Senator Schoenberg and Representative Myers:

My letter is addressing the issue of closing Pontiac Prison. I beg of you to not do so. The facility is old but still viable. Why take something that is not broke and break it. I have now lived in Pontiac for thirty years. It is a peaceful and hard working community. The closing of the Pontiac Prison would impact this community drastically. I have already spoken to two local area business people who said their doors would close if the Prison closes. I work in health care and several employees are spouses of those who work at the prison. If it were to close we would lose those employees to another area of the state. With the Prison closing there would be no reason to locate to Pontiac, therefore who would care for the elderly in the nursing homes. You and I both know that a good health care provider is hard to come by. Not only would we lose many good citizens of our community, but also the impact on our school system would dramatically hurt them. We are already living in a state that struggles with the school systems. This closing would be like the domino effect first the prison, then the local businesses and then our housing market. The community will have a hard time drawing persons to locate her as well as we try to bring more businesses to our town. This community has survived natural disasters but this man made disaster would destroy us. Please take the time to read, listen with your hearts and consider looking for other alternatives to the Correctional systems problems. Pontiac Correctional Center needs to remain as is.

Sincerely,

Kathy Finkenbinder
Citizen of Pontiac, IL

Dear Commission:

These are a few questions that I have after attending the meeting in Pontiac. My husband has 23 and a half years with Pontiac Correctional Center. I retired from Dwight Correctional Center with 25 years.

1. Why would it be better to transfer Inmates from Pontiac than Statesville? The Inmates at Pontiac would require more staff to transfer, More State Police escorts. This is because of the security of Pontiac Inmates.

2. How many were on the Transfer list at Pontiac, before it was announced that Pontiac would be closing.

3. If the budgets are so close, why is it that in June every year Department heads at the Institutions are told to spend HUNDREDS OF THOUSAND Dollars before the end of the fiscal year.

How can the Governor justify moving hundreds of families when He didn't want or even consider moving his own family! He would be CAUSING POVERTY in a much larger community, than he would be helping in another community.

There is no way that he can assure the staff at Pontiac that husbands and wives would be transfer to the same facilities, or even if they would be transferred at the same time. What about staff that has spouses that work in Dwight, for instance? Would they be able to Transfer?

It sounded to me that there is enough money in the budget to operate both Institutions.

You wouldn't believe how much could be saved in EVERY INSTITUTION. You would not believe how much is wasted: Food that is thrown away after every meal, supplies that are either thrown away, or for instance toilet tissue that is use to stuff handicraft items.

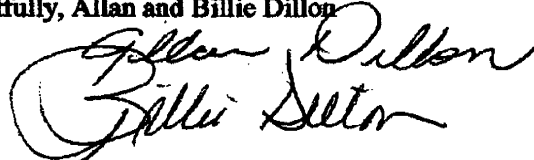
I worked as an officer, sergeant, and maintenance worker so I have seen these things first hand. I could tell you things that would make your heads spin on things and equipment that are destroyed; thrown away or just plain disappear. Or are stowed away in a back shed to just rot away.

As for not paying other counties to house our Inmates BULL! You need to see how many are sitting in Cook County, that have been sentenced, awaiting to be sent, but aren't because Corrections won't let them because of no room.

The Closing of Pontiac would hurt us also because if my husband would transfer we would be leaving our children and grandchildren. We would no longer be able to go to their sports activities, church activities, baby-sit them, and have fun with them. We would not be able to sell our Boarding and Horse Training facility, because of falling real-estate prices. WE also would lose clients; we are very active with children if 4-H that has horses.

We can tell you this that WE WOULD NOT LIVE IN ILLINOIS; WE WOULD LIVE IN IOWA. Believe me most of the people transferring feel the same.

Respectfully, Allan and Billie Dillon

Handwritten signatures of Allan and Billie Dillon in cursive script.

August 20, 2008

Senator Jeff Schoenberg, Co-Chairman
Representative Rich Myers, Co-Chairman
Commission on Government
Forecasting and Accountability
703 Stratton Office Building
Springfield, IL 62706

Dear Gentlemen,

THIS WILL ONLY NOT EFFECT THE EMPLOYEES OF
THE PRISON, IT WILL ALSO EFFECT THE EMPLOYEES OF ALL
BUSINESS IN THE COMMUNITY BY SLOWING SALES AND
MOVING OTHER FAMILIES TO FIND JOBS FOR THEIR
CLOSED COMPANIES. PLEASE VOTE TO KEEP THE
PONTIAC PRISON OPEN & THE TOWN OF PONTIAC ALIVE!!

Sincerely,



ANTHONY SHOLDERS
DRISCOLL MOTOR CO.
PONTIAC, ILL

August 20, 2008

Senator Jeff Schoenberg, Co-Chairman
Representative Rich Myers, Co-Chairman
Commission on Government
Forecasting and Accountability
703 Stratton Office Building
Springfield, IL 62706

Dear Gentlemen,

As a car salesman, the closing of PCC would have a devastating effect on car sales. The loss of a large part of my customer base would hurt my ability to make a living.

I have also been considering selling my home. If PCC closes, there will be a huge number of homes for sale in Pontiac which would drive down the price of mine. I would ~~be~~ ^{not be} able to sell it.

Sincerely,

Ken Fulkerson

August 20, 2008

Senator Jeff Schoenberg, Co-Chairman
Representative Rich Myers, Co-Chairman
Commission on Government
Forecasting and Accountability
703 Stratton Office Building
Springfield, IL 62706

Dear Gentlemen,

The closing of the PCC would hurt my livelihood. I am a Car Salesman at Driscoll Motors, not only losing the Jobs, but the impact on the rest of the Surrounding Areas would cost me Sales. It is a Domino Affect everyone in Pontiac and Surrounding Counties would Feel the loss of those Jobs!

Sincerely,



August 20, 2008

Senator Jeff Schoenberg, Co-Chairman
Representative Rich Myers, Co-Chairman
Commission on Government
Forecasting and Accountability
703 Stratton Office Building
Springfield, IL 62706

Dear Gentlemen,

Help, help! Our community needs
your help! We are a small town,
struggling with the economy, like so
many others. We need all our jobs
and the income from sales taxes,
etc., that the prison employees bring.
Working in the car industry, we have
seen the effects already. Our
customers are scared to spend
their money, with such uncertainty!

Sincerely,

Clare Magr @
Dresdale Motors

August 20, 2008

Senator Jeff Schoenberg, Co-Chairman
Representative Rich Myers, Co-Chairman
Commission on Government
Forecasting and Accountability
703 Stratton Office Building
Springfield, IL 62706

Dear Gentlemen,

First of all my wife & I are both paid on a commission. If this city loses that many jobs we definitely will not make as much money & times are hard enough as it is. Second of all I have 2 coworkers in which their spouses are employed at PCS. If it closes I am sure they are going to follow their spouses to wherever they are transferred. This is how it will affect my family not including the entire city of Pontiac & its surrounding communities

Sincerely,

David J. Port & Family

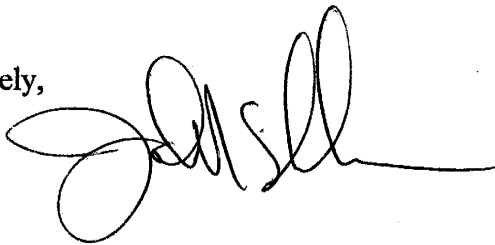
August 20, 2008

Senator Jeff Schoenberg, Co-Chairman
Representative Rich Myers, Co-Chairman
Commission on Government
Forecasting and Accountability
703 Stratton Office Building
Springfield, IL 62706

Dear Gentlemen,

Please Do not close the Pontiac
PRISON. IT IT would DEVASTATE
OUR TOWN & ECONOMY!

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jeff Schoenberg". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal line extending to the right.

August 20, 2008

Senator Jeff Schoenberg, Co-Chairman
Representative Rich Myers, Co-Chairman
Commission on Government
Forecasting and Accountability
703 Stratton Office Building
Springfield, IL 62706

Dear Gentlemen,

Closing the PCC is not the answer. If the report is really looked at from a "cost to fix up" anyone can see that figures were just entered. How are we supposed to believe anything that comes from Springfield? Closing is wrong with opening Thompson the over crowding would hopefully be lessened. The impact to this County and town will close more than just the prison. Keep it here.

Sincerely,



August 20, 2008

Senator Jeff Schoenberg, Co-Chairman
Representative Rich Myers, Co-Chairman
Commission on Government
Forecasting and Accountability
703 Stratton Office Building
Springfield, IL 62706

Dear Gentlemen,

I hope you would reconsider closing Pontiac Correctional Center. Closing of the Pontiac Correctional Center would be devastating to the community and central Illinois. With so many either being transferred or losing their jobs, our businesses, real estate, schools, and taxes would all suffer tremendously.

If the inmates go to Thompson, this would only be boosting Iowa's economy, with employees coming from Iowa. Let's keep the money in Illinois.

With Thompson not being finished, this would cost more money to finish it. The prisons are already crowded, so why make them more crowded. This would make safety a bigger issue for the employees than it already is.

Please reconsider keeping Pontiac Correctional Center open.

Sincerely,

Sandy Freeston

August 20, 2008

Senator Jeff Schoenberg, Co-Chairman
Representative Rich Myers, Co-Chairman
Commission on Government
Forecasting and Accountability
703 Stratton Office Building
Springfield, IL 62706

Dear Gentlemen,

I have been objective concerning closing of the Pontiac Prison, thinking of what is best for the State of IL. I have only cons on my list, unable to find any Pros. The following are a few reasons why I disagree with its closing:

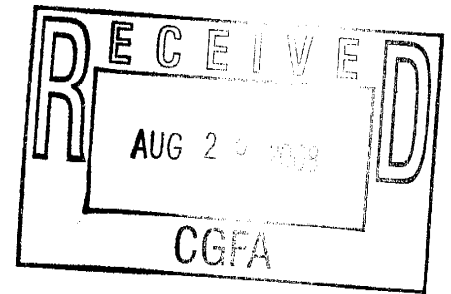
1. Thompson isn't setup for the caliber of inmates that are currently housed at Pontiac, which are some of the worst in the state. Opening would cost money to bring to standards.
2. People that would be transferred to Thompson might decide to move to Iowa taking away Illinois dollars.
3. If opening of something else at the Pontiac Prison is an option, would still need to spend money to bring to standards.
4. People who transfer to different prison locations would be required to be away from families for days, due to price of gas, working hrs, etc. Families couldn't move due to spouses having jobs, here, owning homes, etc.
5. Effects Real Estate, education, local Business, & also surrounding towns, unemployment, etc

Sincerely,

Samuel Adams

8/22/2008

Senator Jeff Schoenberg – Co-Chairman
Representative Rich Myers – Co-Chairman
Commission on Government Forecasting and Accountability
703 Stratton Office Building
Springfield, IL 62706



Dear Commission:

I am writing to you in regards to the proposed closing of the Pontiac Correctional Center. I am a real estate agent in Pontiac, and have been for almost 3 years. If PCC were to close, it will be disastrous to the economy of Pontiac, Livingston County, and much of Central Illinois. With hundreds of families being forced to move, property values will drop tremendously, and may take several years, if ever at all, to come back up to where we are today.

I was born and raised here in Pontiac, and wanted to come back here after college for many reasons. One was the fact that most of my family still lived and worked here. Another big reason was the fact that I enjoyed and wanted to live in a smaller town, yet still be fairly close to many larger towns and cities. We have very easy access to Chicago, Bloomington, Peoria, Champaign, Springfield, etc., yet still enjoy the small town way of life. It's very difficult to get people to move back here to live and work after going off to college, and if PCC closes, I feel it will almost be impossible to attract young professionals to locate here.

My wife teaches kindergarten in one of our public schools, and would be affected negatively by the closing. My oldest sister is the director at Noah's Ark Pre-School, and would be negatively affected, as would another older sister who teaches at that same pre-school. My recently retired parents would be affected negatively, as the value of their property (which they're counting on the proceeds from the sale of in a few years to go towards their retirement funds) would drop dramatically.

I realize difficult decisions have to be made every day. But after being at the hearing at PTHS on August 20th, it just doesn't sound like there is any logical reason to close PCC. The negative impact it would have on the entire Central Illinois area would be devastating. As you know, there is hardly a person in Pontiac, Livingston County, and several other surrounding counties that would not be affected one way or another for many years to come. Please support keeping the Pontiac Correctional Center open.

Sincerely,

David R. Wayman
1717 S Oak St. Pontiac, IL 61764

August 7, 2008

Senator Jeff Schoenberg – Co Chairman
Representative Rich Myers – Co Chairman
Commission on Government
Forecasting and Accountability
703 Stratton Office Building
Springfield, IL 62706

Dear Legislative Commission:

Pontiac Correctional Center is a very important part of our community in Pontiac, IL. As a realtor, I have personally worked with many employees of PCC – both selling homes to these employees on a first-time basis and selling them homes as they progress to larger homes as their families grow. These employees are hard working people who contribute to our community in many ways. They live and work in Pontiac and they are active citizens in our community development. The children of these PCC employees are receiving an excellent education in our schools and many of them will hopefully decide to settle in Pontiac, Illinois when they become adults.

Our community thrives due to our citizens living, shopping, playing and enjoying our facilities in Pontiac. We are very proud of our city and the amenities that we have to take advantage of. Losing the employees of PCC would undoubtedly cause Pontiac to suffer a long and lasting depression as we would struggle to maintain the existing businesses that we have. The economy of our City of Pontiac demands that its citizens support these businesses and continues to be a progressive city that grows in numbers.

I recognize the financial difficulties that the State of Illinois is experiencing; however I am quite certain that the small cities in Illinois need the cooperation from the state level to help us retain our citizens and to encourage our business development.

My final thought is this: Retain Pontiac Correctional Center and jobs for the employees of PCC. Allow Pontiac, Illinois to continue to expand our city with new businesses, not take away a major employment source from us.

Sincerely,

Kathleen A. Kallas
Louis Lyons Realty
318 West Madison Street
Pontiac, IL 61764

8/21/2008

Senator Jeff Schoenberg – Co-Chairman
Representative Rich Myers – Co-Chairman
Commission on Government
Forecasting and Accountability
703 Stratton Office Building
Springfield, IL 62706

Dear Commission:

I am writing to you about the closing of the Pontiac Correctional Center. I am a real estate agent in Pontiac. If the Pontiac Correctional Center were to close it would be disastrous to the economy of Pontiac and all of Central Illinois. Moving so many families out of Central Illinois will cause property values to drop and may never get back to where we are today.

I also own rental property here in Pontiac; one of my current tenants is an officer at the Pontiac Correction Center. Rental values will decrease dramatically also and will cause a lot of good landlords to suddenly have vacancies and which will lower rents collected which will have an effect of the value of the property.

I recognize the difficult decisions have to be made, however there needs to be a better way than to wake up in the morning and read in the local paper that the State of Illinois is going to close the second largest employer that we have in the area.

I am asking that the Commission on Government Forecasting and Accountability support keeping the Pontiac Correctional Center open. I am also asking that a bill be drafted to have a five and ten year plan for the Department of Corrections so some other town does not wake up in the morning and read that there prison is closing.

Sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Terrance C. Sullivan", with a stylized flourish at the end.

Terrance C. Sullivan
102 E. Ririe Place
Flanagan, IL 61740

August 12, 2008

Dear Governor Blagojevich,

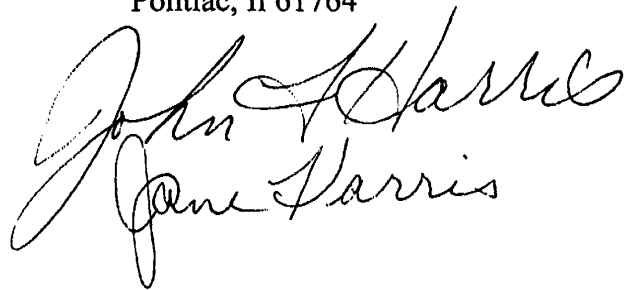
I am writing this letter in regard to the closing of the Pontiac Prison. My husband and I are very concerned about the closing.

My husband is a Plumber in Pontiac and it will drastically affect our family. So many of his clients are employed or associated with the Prison. I work for a local Realtor, and of course my job would also be affected, as the whole town depends on the people who work and live here.

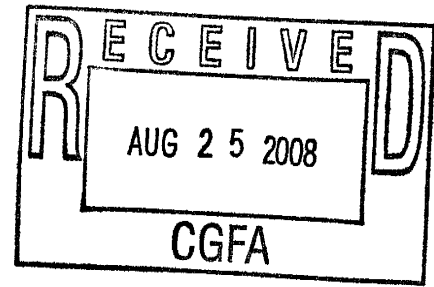
I just live 3 houses from the front gate of the Prison and never have I been afraid, I have lived in the same house for more than 40 years. Most of our friends and neighbors work there or have family that work there. The economy in Pontiac would be devastating. It affects everyone, schools, businesses and everyone. With economy as it is today, we all feel this would be another nail in our coffin. It would be a hard pill to swallow.

Concerned Citizen

Jane & John Harris
709 S. Vermillion St
Pontiac, Il 61764

Handwritten signatures of John and Jane Harris. The signature for John Harris is written above the signature for Jane Harris. Both signatures are in cursive and appear to be written in black ink.

Senator Jeff Schoenberg Co-Chairman
Representative Rich Myers Co-Chairman
Commission on Government
Forecasting and Accountability
703 Stratton Office Building
Springfield, IL 62706



My name is Cindy Deatherage and I am married to (Larry) a Correctional Lieutenant who has been working at Pontiac Correctional Center for 24 years. Governor Blagojevich wants to close the prison, for us this is a disaster.

My husband has been told that the Department of Corrections will find a job for everyone if they close Pontiac. But we don't know where it will be, or what job they'll be doing when they get there. That's hard on us and on our families. It would be devastating to us.

What do we do if we have to sell? I can't live here alone until the house sells! We have lived in Chenoa in the same house for 19 years. I have a neuromuscular disease (Friedreich's ataxia) and I use a wheelchair. Over the 19 years we have made many costly modifications to the house such as roll-in shower, new garage with an accessible raised floor, raised floor at the back door and a ramp. We had to install a track lift system in the bedroom and bathroom as my disease progressed; the kitchen has custom cabinets that are accessible to me. As my needs change so does the expense for modifications. We are almost set! Now you want us to start over! HOW?

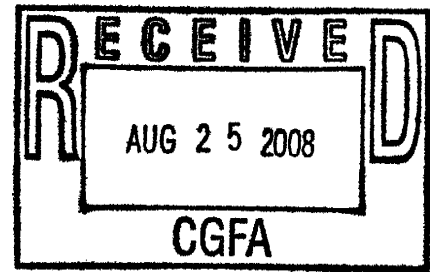
Because of some of the modifications our house may be impossible to sell. We will never be able to get a fair market value. And after looking into the real estate 4 years ago, in the Thomson area, the houses are mostly 2-story with a basement, which, for a w/c isn't good! I also have to have help during the day while my husband is working. If the prison closes my family won't be near enough to help. Thomson is over 4 hours away for them.

We would be looking at starting over if we are forced to move. And I know we're not going to be able to afford it. We know we'll take a loss on our investment in the house. We're likely to take a bigger loss when a lot of homes go up for sale in the Pontiac area. And there is no guarantee Larry will remain a Lieutenant and bring home the same paycheck! In a layoff situation he may have to take what he can get. We are a single income family making it work.

PLEASE SAVE PONTIAC PRISON!

Cindy Deatherage
Chenoa, IL 61726

Senator Jeff Schoenberg Co-Chairman
Representative Rich Myers Co-Chairman
Commission on Government
Forecasting and Accountability
703 Stratton Office Building
Springfield, IL 62706



My name is Larry Deatherage. I've worked at Pontiac Correctional Center 24 years, where I have achieved the rank of Lieutenant. I've never worked at another correctional center and I have no desire to. Pontiac is where I want to be.

I've heard it said that DOC would find a place for all of us if they close Pontiac. But we don't know where those places will be, or what job we'll be doing when we get there. That's hard on our families and us employees. We've all got stories to tell about how this closure would tear us up.

Here's my story. My wife Cindy and I have lived in the area for years. We have good friends and her family is nearby. That has been a real help, because my wife has Friedreich's Ataxia, a type of muscular dystrophy. It's a degenerative disease. Cindy can't be by herself for more than an hour or so.

Over the years we have put money into our home, like a lot of people have, to make it more livable for us. But our investment was about \$40,000 to make the house wheel chair accessible. We widened the doorways, built ramps and then rebuilt them when Cindy went to a power chair, put in a track system for lifting, we had to modify the kitchen, bathroom and a garage so she doesn't have to transfer in and out of the vehicle in the rain and snow. We met with a real estate consultant recently, who told us we wouldn't get anything back on that investment. She said people don't pay more for accessible houses.

If forced to move to Thomson it would be like starting over. I don't know if you've seen the area up there, but it's a little hilly. We've already looked at real estate; most of the homes are split level or 2-story with walk out basements. We're looking at having to make the same home modifications we made once all over again, and probably more adding in the need of a stair lift or elevator.

And I don't know if we're going to be able to afford it. We know we'll take a loss on our investment in the house. We're likely to take a bigger loss when a lot of homes go up for sale in the Pontiac area. And I've got no guarantee I'll remain a Lieutenant and keep my pay grade. In a layoff situation I may have to take what I can get.

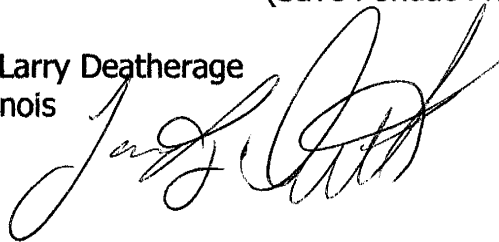
So I'm going from a comfortable situation, a home that works for us, a mortgage I can handle and looking at a few years until retirement **(to what)?** I don't know! Maybe less pay, a bigger mortgage, forget about retirement?

That's the financial side. Leaving behind all the people who support us is a bigger loss. We have someone who comes in the house to be with Cindy when I'm at work, and we also have friends and family who fill in when the caregiver is sick or I have to work overtime. If we have to move, how do you establish yourself and hire a caregiver and find fill-in help? Cindy's family would be 3 or 4 hours away instead of 30 minutes.

Closing my facility and forcing me to move is not a minor inconvenience. It will change our lives, and this community. I ask the members of the commission to reject the plan to close Pontiac Correctional Center.

(Save Pontiac Prison)

Thank you,
Lieutenant Larry Deatherage
Chenoa, Illinois

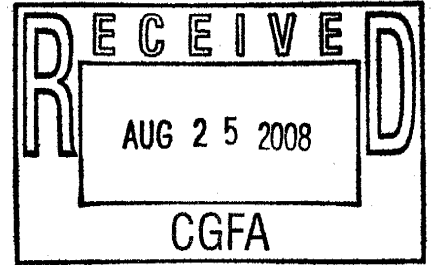
A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Larry Deatherage", written over the typed name.

In all criminal prosecutions, the accused shall have the assistance of counsel for his defense.

- U.S. Constitution, Amendment VI

Lawrence H. Necheles

Attorney at Law



23 August 2008

Office: PO Box 564, Pontiac, IL 61764

Home: 504 S. Mill Street, Pontiac, IL 61764

By Priority Mail

Re: Pontiac Correctional Facility

Senator Jeff Schoenberg, Co-Chairman

Representative Rick Myers, Co-Chairman

Commission on Government Forecasting and Accountability

703 Stratton Office Building

Springfield, Illinois 62706

Dear Sirs:

My name is Lawrence Necheles and I have been an attorney for eighteen years. I reside in Pontiac, Illinois. Most of my practice concentrates in Juvenile Abuse/ Neglect (DCFS) and Criminal matters in the **Circuit Courts of Cook County**. I commute at least three days per week for court from Pontiac.

I urge this committee to recommend the continued operation of the Pontiac facility.

I. My first basic argument is that it is in the Best Interests of the Children of Cook County. The biggest sending county's of inmates to Pontiac are located in the Chicago Metro area. Many of the inmates are parents and the Illinois Department of Children and Family Services is statutorily mandated to provide incarcerated parents and children with quarterly visits. Obviously, this mandate applies only to Adjudicated Wards of the Court. The (Wards) children miss their parents and desire to maintain those bonds. Pontiac is a short car ride from the sending counties and it generally would not pose a transportation issue with the children or DCFS. On the other hand, I have heard court testimony over and over again that when parents are incarcerated in Southern Illinois or longer than a two hour car ride, it poses a hardship on the children. In addition, sometimes DCFS will transport an older child at great expense to a distant prison facility. Because of it's location, Pontiac is ideal for DCFS to provide relatively inexpensive quarterly parent child visits and for children to maintain a relationship with their parents at a minimal transportation hardship.

II. Maintaining Pontiac could/will save on court transport costs for inmates that need to be

WRITTEN in (brought to court). Again, most court activity takes place in the population centers of Northern Illinois----specifically the Chicago area. Many inmates need to be transported for substantive criminal matters, post conviction petitions, and for Abuse and Neglect (DCFS) proceedings. Pontiac, because of its short car ride to these population centers and courts, makes it ideal to maintain it as a correctional facility. Gas is costly for those Ford F-250 inmate transport vans. Personnel costs for Corrections Officers that transport inmates are also reduced. Safety is another issue. It's that old cliché.....location, location, location....

III. Pontiac is a short ride for service providers to the inmates. Most inmates are from the Chicago region and Northern Illinois. Social Workers, clergy, attorneys, therapists, counselors, drug treatment specialists, housing advocates, employment counselors and a whole host of other professionals service the inmates. **Many of the service providers are NON-PROFITS AND RELIGIOUS ORGANIZATIONS** who can ill-afford the high gas prices to travel far downstate. Many of these service providers are pro-bono, public defenders and volunteers. Transportation and time could be an issue for these providers. These service providers tend to be from the Chicago area. Pontiac, because of its location is not a transportation hardship. The inmates are accessible and fuel and transport costs are kept low and within budget with Pontiac maintained as a facility.

IV. Reduced criminal recidivism. The University of Chicago developed a now widely accepted theory of Criminal behavior and justice. It is now one of the standard explanations of why crime is concentrated in certain areas. Social Disorganization Theory developed in the 1940s to explain crime. In a brief nutshell: It is about social linkages to the community and its informal and formal organizations. The better that someone is linked or tied to a community and its organization, businesses, families, networks, associations, schools, churches, synagogues, and other governmental bodies, the less like that he is to engage in anti-social behavior (crime). If he is connected to society by work, a job, school, church, family and other organizations and maintains those ties (linkages) to the community he is less likely to commit further crimes. Because of its location, Pontiac fits that social theory of crime reduction. Inmates can easily maintain relationships with family, clergy, churches, social workers, and job providers. Its all about linkages, ties to the community via easy and inexpensive car ride. Because of its location to community resources, service providers and family, Pontiac should be maintained as a facility.

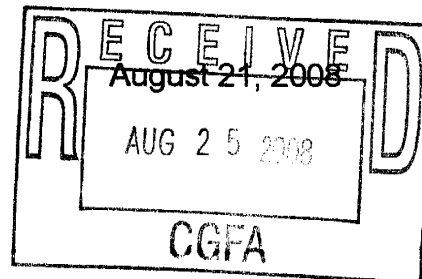
If you should have any questions, please do not hesitate to call me. My telephone number is (312)263-4735 and my e-mail: 6amend@verizon.net. Thank you for your time.

Respectfully submitted,



Lawrence Necheles,
Attorney at Law

Sam B. Wagner
1687 Eureka Road
Washington, IL 61571



Senator Jeff Schoenberg Co-Chairman
Representative Rich Myers Co-Chairman
Commission on Government
Forecasting and Accountability
703 Stratton Office Building
Springfield, IL 62706

Gentlemen:

I am writing in opposition to the potential closing of the Pontiac Correctional Center in Pontiac, Illinois. We are most appreciative of the public hearings now underway and your work to hear from all who are directly affected. It is my intention that this letter voices our concerns about closing the facility and our feelings regarding such a move.

The economic implications of closing this historic facility will impact a far greater area and number of Illinois citizens than those living in the Pontiac community. There are employee families living as far away as the Illinois River and many would find it difficult to relocate should the Pontiac Correctional Center be closed.

Our other concern is that negatively affecting already overcrowded conditions in our current correctional system would impose a hardship on those incarcerated, making it difficult for them to learn and study. It is not an easy task under ideal conditions for inmates to achieve skills that will help them survive on the outside once their sentences are served.

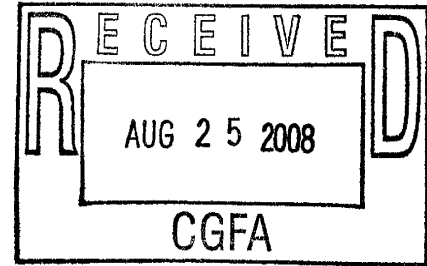
We understand this matter consumes a great deal of your time and we appreciate your thoroughness, your understanding, and your willingness to listen to those of us who are deeply concerned. Thank you for your work on behalf of all of us who live, work, and raise our families here in Illinois.

Sincerely,



Sam B. Wagner
Cc Senator Dan Rutherford

To:
Senator J. Schoenberg
Rep. Richard Meyers
And the other 10 members of CGFA



Dear Sirs and Ladies,

I writing to you in regards to the closing of Pontiac Correctional Center and my adamant opposition to this action.

I know that I cannot say anything not already said to you on this matter but, will try and reflect on the other consequences of this action. We(this community) has already suffered a death directly because of this proposed action. Steven Troyer (a PCC officer) has suffered a terminal heart attack, many feel is directly because of the possibility of losing his job or the thought of having to relocate and losing touch with his family and children, just like so many others will have to do, if or when this closing takes place..

My question to your committee is who is held responsible for these events that take place because of elected officials actions? Too many in our community, this appears like murder or at least abuse of power? I ask you, can elected official legally commit murder? Hasn't the governor over step his legal power in trying to destroy our community and affecting so many other aspects of our existence and well being? How much pressure are citizen expected to endure because of political abuse of power?

We all know what drives Rod Blagojevich's reasoning (Sen. Shoenberg reprimanded any one who attempted to bring this up, at the hearing at Pontiac High School on Aug. 20 '08) but, are you going to allow him to control our lives and terminate our lives, to satisfy his need for retribution against a member of the Illinois Legislature?

In closing I must tell you I am a Union member and they insisted we vote for Blagojevich, eight year ago but, no more! I feel he isn't competent enough to do the job he was elected to do. The needs of the people who have elected him are grossly ignored. His own party controls both the House and Senate but, he can't even get along in this politically perfect atmosphere.

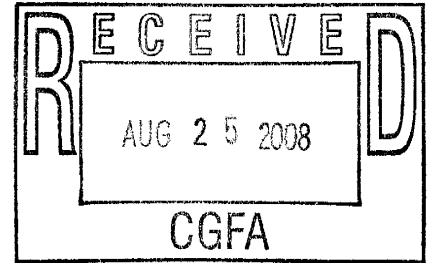
How many more lives must be lost to this type of political blackmail? Aren't politicians legally responsible for their actions, under the laws of this country?

I beseech you, STOP THE CLOSING OF PCC?

Sincerely, Stephen G. Bennett Sr.
705 N. Main St.
Pontiac, Illinois 61764
Ph. (815)844-5985

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Stephen G. Bennett Sr." with a stylized flourish at the end.

CAROL A. SCHRENK
P.O. BOX 53
GRIDLEY, IL 61744
309-242-8448



AUGUST 20, 2008

SENATOR JEFF SCHOENBERG, CO-CHAIRMAN
REPRESENTATIVE RICH MYERS, CO-CHAIRMAN
COMMISSION ON GOVERNMENT FORECASTING AND
ACCOUNTABILITY
703 STRATTON OFFICE BUILDING
SPRINGFIELD, IL 62706

DEAR GENTLEMEN,

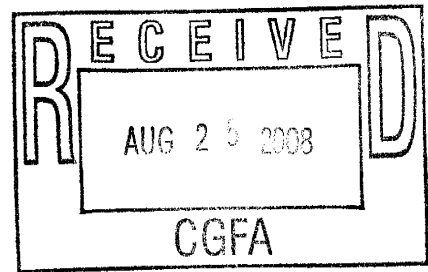
I DO NOT WORK AT PCC, I DON'T HAVE FAMILY THAT WORKS AT
PCC, AND I DON'T LIVE IN PONTIAC BUT I AM A TAXPAYER. MY
REQUEST FOR ALL INVOLVED IS THAT LOGIC, AND COMMON SENSE
PREVAIL. TAKE THE POLITICS AND POSTURING OUT OF THE
EQUATION AND DO WHAT IS BEST FOR ILLINOIS.

SINCERELY,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Carol Schrenk".

CAROL SCHRENK
GRIDLEY, IL

August 22, 2008



Representative Rick Myers, Co-Chairman
Commission on Government Forecasting & Accountability
703 Stratton Office Bldg
Springfield, IL 62706

Re: Pontiac Correctional Center

Senator Myers:

I wish to inform you of my opposition to the closing of the Pontiac Correction Center in Pontiac, IL. PCC is being well operated by the warden, guards and personal. The adage "if it ain't broke don't fix it" comes to mind. The idea of closing a well managed and maintained operation seems like a foolish move. Yes, there is overcrowding - so open Thomson to handle some of the overcrowding, but leave Pontiac open.

If Sheridan is for drug rehab you can't just put anyone there so there still will be overcrowding, don't mess with something that is working - I believe if you look closely there is money to keep PCC open as well as open Thomson. Let's do something that will help both Pontiac & the area around Thomson and keep both places open..

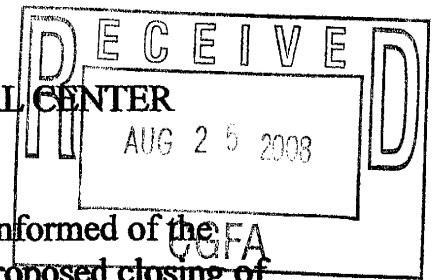
I was at the forum in Pontiac on Wednesday evening and was not the least impressed by Mr Walker of the DOC. He certainly did not answer most of the questions that were put before him.

Sincerely,

Margaret A. Legner
Margaret A Legner

410 E Polk St
Pontiac IL 61764

REGARDING: CLOSING PONTIAC CORRECTIONAL CENTER



As registered voters and citizens who try to keep informed of the issues, we would like to express our concerns over the proposed closing of the Pontiac Correctional Center.

Years ago, when the state was looking for a site to build a new prison, the city of Pontiac wanted the prison to be built on land the State of Illinois already owned just south of the present day prison. However, the powers that be chose another site. Now, as inconceivable as it sounds, the state is considering closing Pontiac altogether -- at a time when there is already a problem with overcrowding in our prison system. If a place must be closed, the closing of the Roundhouse at Stateville would be (for the lack of a better phrase) a feasible economic choice. With the development and growth going on in the Joliet area, this part of the state could absorb the loss much easier than the rural community of Pontiac.

Livingston County and the city of Pontiac has not seen any significant growth in either economics or population in decades. How will the closure of Pontiac Correctional Center affect Pontiac? For one, our schools will lose the tax revenue needed to keep our schools at the level needed to prepare our students for their future. As our home values decrease (who wants to live in a town that has lost it's second largest employer?), our taxes will increase to help cover the cost of services in a county that is fourth in size and presently has a population of around 39,000 people.

Closing the prison would mean families being uprooted, (good luck in trying to sell your house!) kids would be removed from schools and friends. The biggest economic factor would be that most businesses (if not all) would suffer great losses. Some businesses will close and others will have to make some major adjustments like ordering inventory, the products and services now offered would have to be paired back, and loss of employment due to downsizing. Pontiac is the hub for employment for all of Livingston County. The prison's closing will not just effect Pontiac, but every little town and village in the entire county.

What does the state plan to do with the building and grounds once the prison closes? It will just be a matter of time before the site becomes an eye

sore! What happens to all the homes within the prison's vicinity? Who will buy a house that is located next to a huge abandoned configuration of buildings overrun with weeds? And please don't bother telling me that there is money set aside in the budget to take care of mowing and upkeep because we are all well aware of how well the budget works, or more aptly DOESN'T work!

How well prepared is the Thomson area when it comes to handling the problems a prison may bring to their area? Pontiac has the Illinois State Police Headquarters adjacent to the present prison property. The prison's location in Pontiac was one of the reasons that Pontiac has the headquarters located here. We also have a National Guard unit right here in Pontiac in case of trouble. How close is the nearest guard unit to Thomson? How long would it take for them to respond? Is the Thomson Center equipped to handle death row inmates? Where is the nearest hospital to the Thomson Center? Pontiac has a hospital within a few miles of the prison with a staff that is experienced in dealing with prisoners as patients. We also have a trained fire and rescue team that are experienced and knows the protocol involved with working within the prison atmosphere.

Does Thomson have the manpower to hire guards if not all of Pontiac's guards are willing to transfer there? If not, how much will it cost the State of Illinois to train new guards; and, do we WANT that many "new" guards with a bunch of seasoned and savvy inmates?

Where are all the new prison employees going to live? We understand housing in Thomson is limited -- how many prison guards can afford to build a new house on the salary they earn? The quad cities are close by, but that also means the possible loss of revenue to Illinois for those transferred guards to choose to live and shop in Iowa. At least here in Pontiac we don't have to worry about the workers living out of state and commuting to their jobs at P.C.C.

And, finally, what about the inmates and their families? How easy is it going to be for a mother or wife coming from the inner city to visit a son or husband? At least in Pontiac we have access to I-55, a direct route to and from Chicago, and we also have train and bus service going both ways.

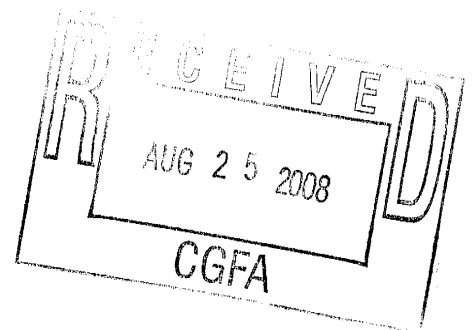
We are proud to call Pontiac our home. The people of Pontiac have

lived in peace (for the most part) with the correctional center for decades. Pontiac has been the recipient of many Governor Home Town Awards thanks to the fine citizens of our community that includes employees of the Pontiac Correctional Center.

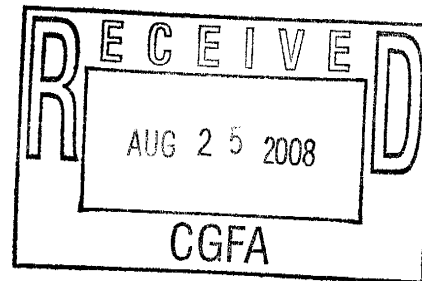
So what is the problem? As far as we can tell, there is no problem! Do you know what they say about that?

“If it ain’t broke, don’t try to fix it!”

(This letter expresses thoughts and comments by many other concerned citizens as well as it’s writers.)



14465E. 1500 North Rd.
Pontiac, IL 61764



August 21, 2008

Senator Jeff Schoenberg-Co-Chairman
Representative Rich Myers-Co-Chairman
Commission on Government
Forecasting and Accountability
703 Stratton Office Building
Springfield, IL 62706

Dear Sirs:

I attended last night's public hearing on the possible closing of the Pontiac Correctional Center. As a lifelong resident of Pontiac, I am terribly concerned about what will happen to our town if the prison does close. Though I am not employed by the prison, I feel that each citizen of Pontiac will be directly or indirectly affected by this action. We all have a great deal at stake.

When I was growing up, I lived down the street from the prison. I will admit, that as a child I really didn't give the prison much thought, It was just something that was always there. But as an adult, I do realize what value the prison has to our community and those surrounding. Whether our citizens believe it or not, that prison brings a great deal of revenue to our area, not just from the prison itself but also from it's employees and their families and anything that they are connected to. If it closes, our town and those in our area will be devastated and will undoubtedly be destroyed.

How can you recommend to the governor that Pontiac Prison be closed when you know what will happen? The people of Central Illinois are citizens of this state and they deserve to be treated fairly. We are taxpayers just like the rest of the state. Our paid taxes should be used in our area and used to help keep Pontiac open. I realize that the government doesn't allocate the taxes like that but it should. I also realize that we are not in a huge metropolitan area. Everyone can't live in the same place. But just because we don't, doesn't mean that we are any less deserving of fair treatment.

I am a co-owner in a Pontiac business. Our main source of customers is from Pontiac and surrounding communities. We do get some customers who drive a fair distance to our business because we do try to carry quality merchandise and we have a one-on-one relationship with our customers. Not only will our business suffer, but all of the businesses in and around Pontiac will suffer as well.

I have heard from your commission that the prison employs close to 600 people. We will lose those people and their jobs as well as those of their spouses if the prison closes. Then when our businesses suffer and possibly close, that could mean that

other people here would possibly move because of the lack of goods and services available. Our schools are going to lose students and therefore lose state aid causing them hardship and possible closures. Our housing market will fall because of all of the homes for sale. There could be more hardships on those prison employees who transfer because they have to have a new place to live but can't sell their homes here. Everyone in Central Illinois will be affected in some way. We are NOT willing to let that happen without a fight.

Thompson was built to help with the overcrowding in our prison system. It was not built in order to close other prisons. You need to recommend that Pontiac stay open so that our prison system runs more efficiently and does not have the overcrowding it does now. I do believe that there is enough money in our state funds to keep Pontiac open. This closure will also hit our state government in it's pockets also. And I don't think that you realize the effect it will have.

So please, recommend to the governor that the PONTIAC PRISON NEEDS TO REMAIN OPEN. Please help our town of Pontiac and other surrounding communities to stay alive and well in Central Illinois! Thank you for your time and consideration.

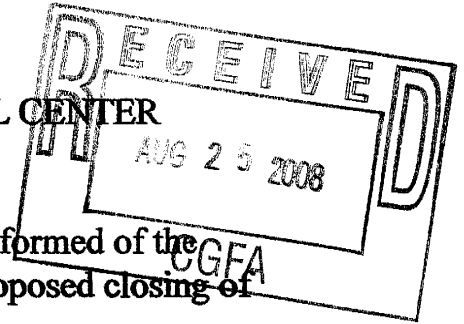
Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Susan Ledford".

Susan Ledford

cc: Senator Dan Rutherford

REGARDING: CLOSING PONTIAC CORRECTIONAL CENTER



As registered voters and citizens who try to keep informed of the issues, we would like to express our concerns over the proposed closing of the Pontiac Correctional Center.

Years ago, when the state was looking for a site to build a new prison, the city of Pontiac wanted the prison to be built on land the State of Illinois already owned just south of the present day prison. However, the powers that be chose another site. Now, as inconceivable as it sounds, the state is considering closing Pontiac altogether -- at a time when there is already a problem with overcrowding in our prison system. If a place must be closed, the closing of the Roundhouse at Stateville would be (for the lack of a better phrase) a feasible economic choice. With the development and growth going on in the Joliet area, this part of the state could absorb the loss much easier than the rural community of Pontiac.

Livingston County and the city of Pontiac has not seen any significant growth in either economics or population in decades. How will the closure of Pontiac Correctional Center affect Pontiac? For one, our schools will lose the tax revenue needed to keep our schools at the level needed to prepare our students for their future. As our home values decrease (who wants to live in a town that has lost it's second largest employer?), our taxes will increase to help cover the cost of services in a county that is fourth in size and presently has a population of around 39,000 people.

Closing the prison would mean families being uprooted, (good luck in trying to sell your house!) kids would be removed from schools and friends. The biggest economic factor would be that most businesses (if not all) would suffer great losses. Some businesses will close and others will have to make some major adjustments like ordering inventory, the products and services now offered would have to be paired back, and loss of employment due to downsizing. Pontiac is the hub for employment for all of Livingston County. The prison's closing will not just effect Pontiac, but every little town and village in the entire county.

What does the state plan to do with the building and grounds once the prison closes? It will just be a matter of time before the site becomes an eye

sore! What happens to all the homes within the prison's vicinity? Who will buy a house that is located next to a huge abandoned configuration of buildings overrun with weeds? And please don't bother telling me that there is money set aside in the budget to take care of mowing and upkeep because we are all well aware of how well the budget works, or more aptly DOESN'T work!

How well prepared is the Thomson area when it comes to handling the problems a prison may bring to their area? Pontiac has the Illinois State Police Headquarters adjacent to the present prison property. The prison's location in Pontiac was one of the reasons that Pontiac has the headquarters located here. We also have a National Guard unit right here in Pontiac in case of trouble. How close is the nearest guard unit to Thomson? How long would it take for them to respond? Is the Thomson Center equipped to handle death row inmates? Where is the nearest hospital to the Thomson Center? Pontiac has a hospital within a few miles of the prison with a staff that is experienced in dealing with prisoners as patients. We also have a trained fire and rescue team that are experienced and knows the protocol involved with working within the prison atmosphere.

Does Thomson have the manpower to hire guards if not all of Pontiac's guards are willing to transfer there? If not, how much will it cost the State of Illinois to train new guards; and, do we WANT that many "new" guards with a bunch of seasoned and savvy inmates?

Where are all the new prison employees going to live? We understand housing in Thomson is limited -- how many prison guards can afford to build a new house on the salary they earn? The quad cities are close by, but that also means the possible loss of revenue to Illinois for those transferred guards to choose to live and shop in Iowa. At least here in Pontiac we don't have to worry about the workers living out of state and commuting to their jobs at P.C.C.

And, finally, what about the inmates and their families? How easy is it going to be for a mother or wife coming from the inner city to visit a son or husband? At least in Pontiac we have access to I-55, a direct route to and from Chicago, and we also have train and bus service going both ways.

We are proud to call Pontiac our home. The people of Pontiac have

lived in peace (for the most part) with the correctional center for decades. Pontiac has been the recipient of many Governor Home Town Awards thanks to the fine citizens of our community that includes employees of the Pontiac Correctional Center.

So what is the problem? As far as we can tell, there is no problem! Do you know what they say about that?

“If it ain’t broke, don’t try to fix it!”

(This letter expresses thoughts and comments by many other concerned citizens as well as it’s writers.)

Joy Trancor

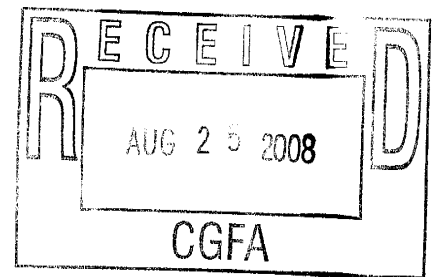
801 Mantave

Pontiac, Ill

61764

August 21, 2008

Senator Jeff Schoenberg Co-Chairman
Representative Rich Myers Co-Chairman
Commission on Government Forecasting and Accountability
703 Stratton Office Building
Springfield, IL 62706



Dear Senator Schoenberg and Representative Myers:

As many others have done, we would like to add our objections to the closing of Pontiac Correctional Center. We could site the MANY reasons for not closing PCC, but I know that all those reasons have already been well documented and submitted to the Commission.

We would just add that it is SO OBVIOUS to everyone but a few (Governor Blagojevich and Director Walker and his staff) that the right thing, the practical thing, the fiscally responsible thing to do is keep PCC open. No matter how many numbers they throw out there, it is STILL obvious that the decision to close PCC is a politically motivated decision and not backed up with correct information.

The hearing in Pontiac last night and the testimony by dozens of people made it even more clear how ridiculous it is to close PCC. We urge you to recommend NOT closing PCC.

Our family has lived in Pontiac for many, many years. Ray and Berniece Tuley, Don's parents, worked there, as well as Don's brother Bob, for many years. Pontiac Correctional Center has been a part of the fabric of our lives as long as we can remember. To close PCC would devastate the lives of many of our friends and neighbors. It would change forever the quality of life here in Pontiac. We both work for government entities; Don is Building Maintenance Supervisor for Livingston County, and Donna is secretary to Mayor Scott McCoy and City Administrator Bob Karls. We have watched in disbelief as this saga has unfolded before our eyes. We know first hand what a blow to our economy this would be. Government services would suffer, and as was so well put in testimony last evening, the social implications to our community would be devastating.

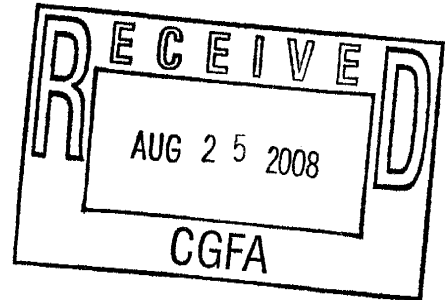
Please do whatever you can to stop this madness.

Thank you, sincerely,

Don & Donna Tuley
115 W. Howard Street
Pontiac, Illinois 61764

8/21/2008

Senator Jeff Schoenberg – Co-Chairman
Representative Rich Myers – Co-Chairman
Commission on Government
Forecasting and Accountability
703 Stratton Office Building
Springfield, IL 62706



Dear Commission:

I am writing to you about the closing of the Pontiac Correctional Center. I am a real estate agent in Pontiac. If the Pontiac Correctional Center were to close it would be disastrous to the economy of Pontiac and all of Central Illinois. Moving so many families out of Central Illinois will cause property values to drop and may never get back to where we are today.

I also own rental property here in Pontiac; one of my current tenants is an officer at the Pontiac Correction Center. Rental values will decrease dramatically also and will cause a lot of good landlords to suddenly have vacancies and which will lower rents collected which will have an effect of the value of the property.

I recognize the difficult decisions have to be made, however there needs to be a better way than to wake up in the morning and read in the local paper that the State of Illinois is going to close the second largest employer that we have in the area.

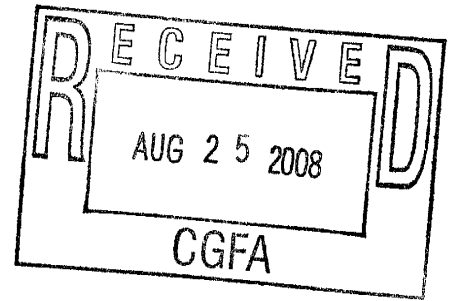
I am asking that the Commission on Government Forecasting and Accountability support keeping the Pontiac Correctional Center open. I am also asking that a bill be drafted to have a five and ten year plan for the Department of Corrections so some other town does not wake up in the morning and read that there prison is closing.

Sincerely

Terrance C. Sullivan
102 E. Ririe Place
Flanagan, IL 61740

August 22, 2008

Senator Jeff Schoenberg
Representative Rich Myers
Commission on Government
Forecasting and Accountability
703 Stratton Office Building
Springfield, IL 62706



Re: Pontiac Correctional Center Hearing

Dear Senator Schoenberg and Representative Myers,

I appreciate the opportunity to write to this commission regarding the impact that the proposed closing of the Pontiac Correctional Center would have on my family.

We have several friends and neighbors that are employed by the Department of Corrections in Pontiac. Some of them would transfer to the next available facility. This would result in the sale of the homes that they currently own. The potential large number of homes on the market would result in a larger supply. If another business of similar work force does not come into Livingston County, the demand for these homes would be low. This would then become a buyers market. The result would be a loss in market value. It is possible that some homes would have a larger loan on their home than the house is worth.

Some of our neighbors and friends would not transfer. I have one neighbor that farms the family farm and also works at the Correctional Center. He would be unable to move to another facility. This would be a hardship on his family. He and his wife are trying to pay off their house loan and raise two young children at the same time. I have another neighbor that works at the correctional center to provide his family with health insurance. His wife has some medical problems. He also farms and would be unable to move to another facility.

The loss in market value of homes and the possibility of the loss of residents to this county and the counties around us could cause restaurant and businesses to close. This would cause my family to travel farther to shop/eat out. With the high current cost of transportation, that would be a hardship on our family.

In conclusion, the closure of the Pontiac Correctional Center would cause our family to lose friends and neighbors, while increasing the already high cost of living. Therefore, I would like to ask your commission to recommend against the closure of the Pontiac Correctional Center.

If you have any questions, feel free to contact me.

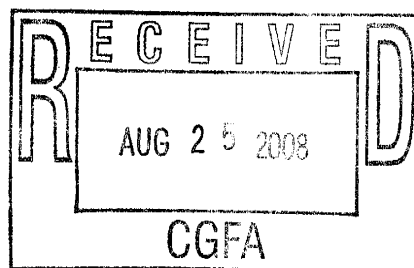
Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink that reads "Duane C. Kiesewetter".

Duane C Kiesewetter
20810 N 2700 E Rd
Saunemin, IL 61769

815-832-4391

August 22, 2008



Senator Jeff Schoenberg, Co-Chairman
Rep. Rich Myers Co-Chairman
Commission on Government
Forecasting and Accountability
703 Stratton Office Building
Springfield, IL 62706

Dear Sirs:

I am writing in regard to the possible closing of Pontiac Correctional Center.

I attended the hearing in Pontiac on August 20, 2008. It was clear by the response of the many in attendance that this action would be devastating to the many communities involved. I was extremely impressed by Mayor McCoy and Rep. Rutherford's efforts to put forth the information regarding the economic statistics regarding the effects that would affect us as taxpayers.

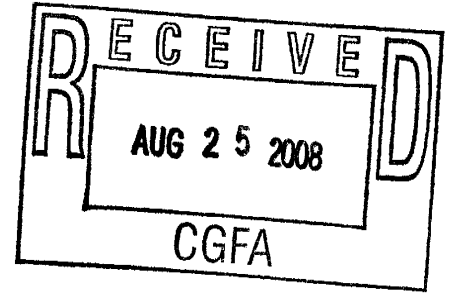
Aside from the economic effects I would like to address the personal issues that would affect my family. My son is employed at PCC. They live in Cornell, their daughter attends school in Cornell. I baby sit my granddaughter several days a week. They own a home in Cornell. If PCC closes, my son will then have a commute of more than two hours, possibly longer. He would also have to consider the cost of transportation. It would be a difficult to maintain their family routines. Many families will move closer to their jobs, which would drastically impact our school and businesses in the area. There are so many ways this will affect our community and our family lives.

I don't feel the Director of Illinois Corrections answered many of the questions put to him in a truthful manner as to the reason Pontiac was singled out for a closure. I resent that my family and my community are being used as a pawn for the governor.

Thank you for this opportunity to express my views.

Sincerely

Shannon Snyder
P.O.B. 212
Cornell, IL 61319



August 22, 2008

Senator Jeff Schoenberg, Co-Chairman
Commission on Government Forecasting & Accountability
703 Stratton Office Bldg
Springfield, IL 62706

Re: Pontiac Correctional Center

Senator Schoenberg:

I wish to inform you of my opposition to the closing of the Pontiac Correction Center in Pontiac, IL. PCC is being well operated by the warden, guards and personal. The adage "if it ain't broke don't fix it" comes to mind. The idea of closing a well managed and maintained operation seems like a foolish move. Yes, there is overcrowding - so open Thomson to handle some of the overcrowding, but leave Pontiac open.

If Sheridan is for drug rehab you can't just put anyone there so there still will be overcrowding, don't mess with something that is working - I believe if you look closely there is money to keep PCC open as well as open Thomson. Let's do something that will help both Pontiac & the area around Thomson and keep both places open..

I was at the forum in Pontiac on Wednesday evening and was not the least impressed by Mr Walker of the DOC. He certainly did not answer most of the questions that were put before him.

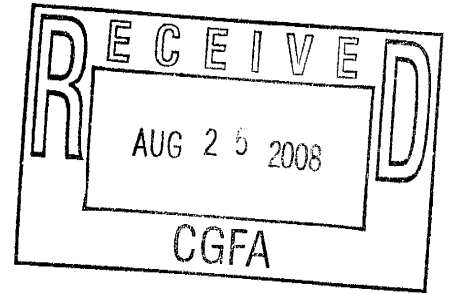
Sincerely,

Margaret A. Legner
Margaret A Legner

410 E Polk St
Pontiac IL 61764

8/22/2008

Senator Jeff Schoenberg – Co-Chairman
Representative Rich Myers – Co-Chairman
Commission on Government Forecasting and Accountability
703 Stratton Office Building
Springfield, IL 62706



Dear Commission:

I am writing to you in regards to the proposed closing of the Pontiac Correctional Center. I am a real estate agent in Pontiac, and have been for almost 3 years. If PCC were to close, it will be disastrous to the economy of Pontiac, Livingston County, and much of Central Illinois. With hundreds of families being forced to move, property values will drop tremendously, and may take several years, if ever at all, to come back up to where we are today.

I was born and raised here in Pontiac, and wanted to come back here after college for many reasons. One was the fact that most of my family still lived and worked here. Another big reason was the fact that I enjoyed and wanted to live in a smaller town, yet still be fairly close to many larger towns and cities. We have very easy access to Chicago, Bloomington, Peoria, Champaign, Springfield, etc., yet still enjoy the small town way of life. It's very difficult to get people to move back here to live and work after going off to college, and if PCC closes, I feel it will almost be impossible to attract young professionals to locate here.

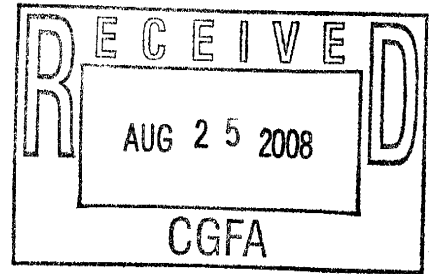
My wife teaches kindergarten in one of our public schools, and would be affected negatively by the closing. My oldest sister is the director at Noah's Ark Pre-School, and would be negatively affected, as would another older sister who teaches at that same pre-school. My recently retired parents would be affected negatively, as the value of their property (which they're counting on the proceeds from the sale of in a few years to go towards their retirement funds) would drop dramatically.

I realize difficult decisions have to be made every day. But after being at the hearing at PTHS on August 20th, it just doesn't sound like there is any logical reason to close PCC. The negative impact it would have on the entire Central Illinois area would be devastating. As you know, there is hardly a person in Pontiac, Livingston County, and several other surrounding counties that would not be affected one way or another for many years to come. Please support keeping the Pontiac Correctional Center open.

Sincerely,

David R. Wayman
1717 S Oak St. Pontiac, IL 61764

Senator Jeff Schoenberg - Co-Chairman
Representative Rich Myers - Co-Chairman
Commission on Government
Forecasting and Accountability
703 Stratton Office Building
Springfield, IL 62706



August 21, 2008

Dear Legislators,

For the past 20 years, I have lived across the street from hundreds of criminals...rapists, murderers, serial killers, batterers, thieves, drug dealers and users, gang members from every gang known to law enforcement, just to name a few. I also live in the safest neighborhood in Illinois. I live across the street from Pontiac Correctional Center.

I must admit, when moving back to my hometown 20 years ago, I was a little nervous about the long term value of a home next to a maximum security prison. I lost a family friend in the riot of 1979, my new home was near the family who was abducted by an escaped convict, and many of my friends and neighbors who worked there told me stories of assaults and threats against them. But over the last 20 years I have seen PCC evolve into one of the safest facilities in the state. The employees of PCC are hardworking, dedicated employees. They too are my neighbors and friends. I have watched as uprisings and riots, as well as a major fire occurred there. But NEVER have I felt afraid as I know that I am protected. No longer are our papers filled with articles about charges against inmates for assaults on correctional officers. What our papers now report is that the governor is considering closing our prison and destroying our community.

Two weeks before the announcement I bought my parents home in a more upscale subdivision in Pontiac and placed my lovely home of 20 years for sale. I would have never considered moving had it not been for the fact that their home was more spacious and they moved to a retirement community. It is clear that decision to buy this home may devastate me financially. I am not employed by PCC, but am a school social worker. Not only has no one called to look at my home for sale, but I am threatened by the fact that there may be no job for me in the schools should the prison close. I have 2 mortgages, a job in jeopardy and 2 homes that no one will want if the prison closes...I couldn't move if I wanted to if I can't sell my home to take employment elsewhere. Do the statistics and studies include the fact that my daughter in Grad School at Loyola may have to drop out and move home as I cannot afford to pay her rent and help her through school anymore because my house won't sell? These studies can't possibly depict the fear and economic impact on the citizen's of Pontiac. We are afraid.

One thing I haven't heard much about is the impact on the families of inmates at PCC. One advantage that the governor overlooks is that PCC is within driving distance of all the major cities in Illinois allowing easy access to visits with their brothers, sons and fathers. As a neighbor of the prison, I've had the opportunity to meet some of the visitors

throughout the years, and they appreciate the community of Pontiac as well. I have given them rides in the rain and snow, carried their children as they walked from the bus to help the mothers, fed their children and welcomed them to our community. How will it impact families who will be cut off from their loved ones, despite the crimes they have committed?

I urge you to advise the Governor of the ramifications of this decisions on the people who helped to put him into office. It will devastate our community.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

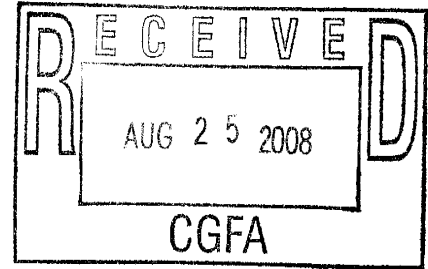
A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Maureen Herr Hopkins".

Maureen Herr Hopkins, MSW
612 W. Moulton
Pontiac, IL 61764
815-844-7552

Cc: Senator Dan Rutherford

August 22, 2008

Senator Jeff Schoenberg, Co-Chairman
Representative Rich Myers, Co-Chairman
Commission on Government Forecasting and Accountability



Dear Gentlemen,

I am writing this letter on the behalf of my company Hendren Golf Management, Inc. dba as Wolf Creek Golf Club and the possible affect that the closing of the Pontiac Correctional Facility will have on my business.

My name is Brett Hendren and started my corporation on Jan. 2, 2001 as I purchased the lease and equipment of Wolf Creek Golf Club. I currently employ 3 full time and 24 part time employees. Wolf Creek Golf Club currently has 204 memberships and 23 of those memberships have at least one employee from the Pontiac Correctional facility. That is just a little over 11 percent of our membership, just from the prison. On top of that, you have to consider the outside green fees, cart rentals, food and beverage, and pro shop sales that this taken in from other employees and visitors because of the prison.

In the current state of the economy, the golf business as a whole has slowed considerable. The last few years, thanks to my wife having a good job at State Farm I have been able to make the payments on my loan but have not even been able to take a payroll check or any other payment at the end of the year. I am currently being audited by the State of Illinois because of that situation. If the Pontiac Prison were to close, it would be a devastating blow to my business and therefore we would have to make some drastic cuts in employment, if we were able to survive at all.

I am not trying to make this a personal sob story, just trying to let everyone know that the effects will be greater than most people realize and I would like to pass this on too someone that might be able to make a difference.

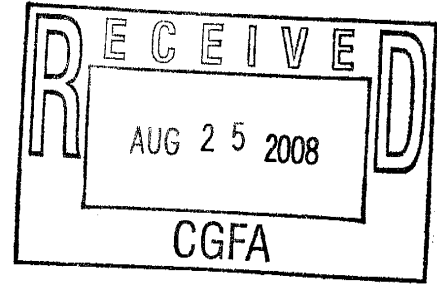
I have heard a lot about the prison closing and all the politics that are involved. I also have a couple of members of the golf course that are employed at the Statesville Correctional facility. They have stated what poor shape that there prison is in, and they have said that a few of the walls are starting to fall apart. You could look at the yearly maintenance budget at each facility and see what prison really is outdated. As I stated earlier, the economy as a whole is extremely poor, but I don't think by saving the stated \$5 million will save the states budget. If they were to close the prison in Pontiac and open the one in Thompson, they will lose at least that \$5 million in different ways. They will lose a tremendous amount on the sales tax from the Livingston County area and will also lose a lot of other revenues to the state of Iowa. From what I have heard, the prison in Thompson is a great facility and needs to be opened up, but not at the expense of Pontiac. I am begging you to look deeper into the closing of the prison and see if there is a better alternative. Thank you for your time.

Brett A Hendren

Brett Hendren (Wolf Creek Golf Club)

August 21, 2008

Senator Jeff Schoenberg Co-Chairman
Representative Rich Myers Co-Chairman
Commission on Government
Forecasting and Accountability
703 Stratton Office Building
Springfield, IL 62706



Dear Sirs,

As a resident and business person of Pontiac Illinois I urge you to reconsider the closing of Pontiac Correctional Center.

Since 1994, I have managed a cellular store called Big Boyz Toyz located at 739 West Howard Street in Pontiac. This location is successful and growing due to the loyal people of Pontiac and it's surrounding communities. If the Pontiac Prison were to close, this retail store would be directly affected. A business of this size depends on longtime quality customers that the Pontiac Prison Employees provide.

I'm asking you to consider and recognize our frustration and desperation as you weigh the choices in front of you. Please make the right choice and continue to allow our small community to grow and flourish with the help of the Pontiac Prison and its' employees.

I personally want to thank you for your time and consideration.

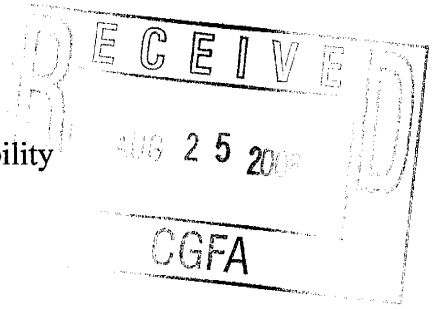
Jenni Leenders
Sales Manager
Big Boyz Toyz
Pontiac Illinois
815-842-1000



145 W. Main Street
Mt. Sterling, IL 62353
Phone: 217-773-2513
Fax: 217-773-3218

August 22, 2008

Senator Jeff Schoenberg – Co-Chairman
Representative Rich Myers – Co – Chairman
Commission on Government Forecasting and Accountability
703 Stratton Office Building
Springfield, IL 62706



Re: Illinois Department of Corrections and the City of Pontiac

To Whom It May Concern:

It has come to my attention as Mayor of Mt. Sterling that a fellow community in the state of Illinois is dealing with impending pressure from our current Governor to close an IDC facility in Pontiac. We in Mt. Sterling have been blessed for over two decades with an IDC facility and can only imagine with great fear the severely adverse impact on our community and ultimately the state of Illinois if that facility were to close.

I write this letter in support of the good citizens of Pontiac, Illinois and their pleas to vacate this proposed closure. The mere economic impact of such on that community would cause undo harm and dejection not just in the short term, but also for the generations to come. Our current facility not only provides the community with a tremendous economic impact but it too struggles with over crowding, guard shortages, and frustration with the current administration. However, it is the values of this community that put forth a commitment just as I am sure that the good citizens of Pontiac do as well to do whatever it takes to adhere to the highest levels of quality with this facility, because we realize the greater good it provides to our community and state.

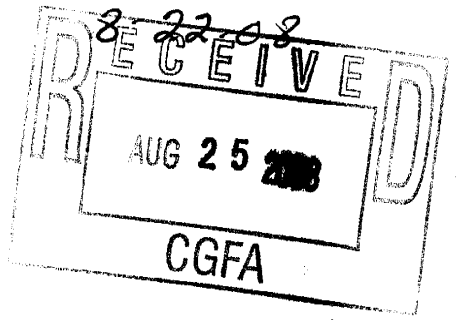
Any closure consideration is truthfully an *economic embargo* for the good citizens of Pontiac!! As our public servants could you with good conscious consider supporting such a measure that would put an *economic embargo* on our own! Please strongly consider this letter as representation from a community that knows first hand the cornerstone that these facilities provide as economic and psychological asset to the community.

Thank you,

Sincerely,

Mayor Billie Burge
Mount Sterling, Illinois

City of Mt. Sterling



TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN

FIRST, I AM AN EMPLOYEE AT PONTIAC C.C. THE CLOSING OF THIS PRISON WOULD HAVE A DRASTIC EFFECT ON ME AND MANY OF THE CIO'S WORKING THERE.

I JUST PURCHASED A HOUSE A MONTH BEFORE THE GOVERNOR DECIDED TO CLOSE PONTIAC.

I AM GOING ON 54 YRS OLD. NOT TOO MANY EMPLOYEE'S ARE WILLING TO HIRE OLDER CITIZANS. I WORKED AT THE GLOVE FACTORY - IT CLOSED, I WORKED AT THE CHAIR FACTORY - IT CLOSED, I WORKED FOR JONES CONSTRUCTION AND IT ALSO CLOSED.

I HAVE TWO SONS IN THIS AREA AND TWO GRANDCHILDREN. I WOULD NOT LIKE TO SEE THEM LESS OFTEN BECAUSE THE GOVERNOR DOES NOT CARE ABOUT DISRUPTING P.C.C. EMPLOYEE'S LIVES. HAVING TO DRIVE OVER 90 MINUTES TO ANOTHER PLACE IS NOT ECONIMICAL WITH GAS PRICES ON THE RISE.

I AM A REAL PERSON WITH REAL CONCERNS. PLEASE TELL THE GOVERNOR NOT TO CLOSE P.C.C. HE DOES WORK FOR THE PEOPLE AND THE PEOPLE SPOKE OUT AT THE PUBLIC HEARING ON THE 20TH DO NOT MAKE THIS A PERSONAL ISSUE WITH OUR SENARTER. THANK YOU.

LINDY CROFT
Lundy Craft

August 6, 2008

Senator Jeff Schoenberg - Co-Chairman
Representative Rich Meyers - Co-Chairman
Commission on Government
Forecasting and Accountability
703 Stratton Office Building
Springfield, IL 62706

Dear Senator Schoenberg and Representative Meyers:

Please re-consider this issue of closing Pontiac Prison. By now you have seen a lot of effort go into trying to make this not happen. The area towns surrounding the prison have taken many steps to show their support to keeping the prison open. The towns have signs, people adorning tee-shirts, they held a parade with a lot of support, a town picture was taken, many meetings have been held and a lot of praying is being done. We need the Pontiac Prison to remain open. The facts have not proven beyond a reasonable doubt that it should close. Please take the time, without all of the options and make the right decision. Keep PONTIAC PRISON open.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Dustin Schuler". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned below the word "Sincerely,".

August 6, 2008

Senator Jeff Schoenberg - Co-Chairman
Representative Rich Meyers - Co-Chairman
Commission on Government
Forecasting and Accountability
703 Stratton Office Building
Springfield, Il 62706

Dear Senator Schoenberg and Representative Meyers:

Please re-consider this issue of closing Pontiac Prison. By now you have seen a lot of effort go into trying to make this not happen. The area towns surrounding the prison have taken many steps to show their support to keeping the prison open. The towns have signs, people adorning tee-shirts, they held a parade with a lot of support, a town picture was taken, many meetings have been held and alot of praying is being done. We need the Pontiac Prison to remain open. The facts have not proven beyond a reasonable doubt that it should close. Please take the time, with out all of the options and make the right decision. Keep PONTIAC PRISON open.

Sincerely,

Bevan Lewis

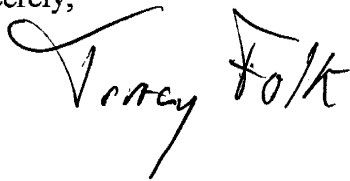
August 6, 2008

Senator Jeff Schoenberg - Co-Chairman
Representative Rich Meyers - Co-Chairman
Commission on Government
Forecasting and Accountability
703 Stratton Office Building
Springfield, Il 62706

Dear Senator Schoenberg and Representative Meyers:

Please re-consider this issue of closing Pontiac Prison. By now you have seen a lot of effort go into trying to make this not happen. The area towns surrounding the prison have taken many steps to show their support to keeping the prison open. The towns have signs, people adorning tee-shirts, they held a parade with a lot of support, a town picture was taken, many meetings have been held and alot of praying is being done. We need the Pontiac Prison to remain open. The facts have not proven beyond a reasonable doubt that it should close. Please take the time, with out all of the options and make the right decision. Keep PONTIAC PRISON open.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Tracy Folk". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, stylized 'T' and 'F'.

August 20, 2008

Senator Jeff Schoenberg, Co-Chairman
Representative Rich Myers, Co-Chairman
Commission on Government
Forecasting and Accountability
703 Stratton Office Building
Springfield, IL. 62706

Dear Gentlemen:

Thank you so much for your time and patience at the hearing tonight. We are very concerned citizens. I did not speak at the hearing due to the hour and temperature in the building.

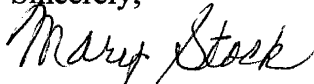
I would like to say that I have lived in Livingston County all my life. All but five years have been in Pontiac. My husband and I have raised our children here, and our grandchildren are being raised in Pontiac or neighboring counties. My husband is supervisor of the privately owned ambulance service located in Pontiac. He has gone in and out of the Pontiac Correctional Center many times for his job, and has never felt anxious. The officers and staff of the PCC have always done a great job seeing that people are not in danger. I have family working in two of the prisons in Illinois, one being Pontiac. I would not like to see family have to change jobs or move at this time, because one is really close to retirement.

Could you keep both Pontiac and Thomson open if the people on the transfer list were sent to Thomson, and then transfer inmates from each over crowded facility to Thomson? This would help with over crowding, and keep all facilities open. The new correctional officers could then be assigned around the state where needed.

I would really like to see Legislatures make a change in the law so one person does not have the power to play with so many lives.

Again, thanks to the entire Commission for their time tonight.

Sincerely,



Mary J. Stock (Mrs.)
1395 Turtle Dr., Pontiac, IL. 61764


August 6, 2008

Senator Jeff Schoenberg - Co-Chairman
Representative Rich Meyers - Co-Chairman
Commission on Government
Forecasting and Accountability
703 Stratton Office Building
Springfield, Il 62706

Dear Senator Schoenberg and Representative Meyers:

Please re-consider this issue of closing Pontiac Prison. By now you have seen a lot of effort go into trying to make this not happen. The area towns surrounding the prison have taken many steps to show their support to keeping the prison open. The towns have signs, people adorning tee-shirts, they held a parade with a lot of support, a town picture was taken, many meetings have been held and alot of praying is being done. We need the Pontiac Prison to remain open. The facts have not proven beyond a reasonable doubt that it should close. Please take the time, with out all of the options and make the right decision. Keep PONTIAC PRISON open.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Nancy Reineke". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned to the right of the word "Sincerely,".

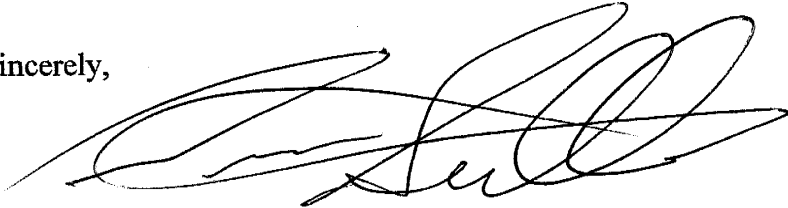
August 6, 2008

Senator Jeff Schoenberg - Co-Chairman
Representative Rich Meyers - Co-Chairman
Commission on Government
Forecasting and Accountability
703 Stratton Office Building
Springfield, IL 62706

Dear Senator Schoenberg and Representative Meyers:

Please re-consider this issue of closing Pontiac Prison. By now you have seen a lot of effort go into trying to make this not happen. The area towns surrounding the prison have taken many steps to show their support to keeping the prison open. The towns have signs, people adorning tee-shirts, they held a parade with a lot of support, a town picture was taken, many meetings have been held and a lot of praying is being done. We need the Pontiac Prison to remain open. The facts have not proven beyond a reasonable doubt that it should close. Please take the time, without all of the options and make the right decision. Keep PONTIAC PRISON open.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be "C. Schulz", written over a horizontal line.

August 6, 2008

Senator Jeff Schoenberg - Co-Chairman
Representative Rich Meyers - Co-Chairman
Commission on Government
Forecasting and Accountability
703 Stratton Office Building
Springfield, Il 62706

Dear Senator Schoenberg and Representative Meyers:

Please re-consider this issue of closing Pontiac Prison. By now you have seen a lot of effort go into trying to make this not happen. The areas surrounding the prison have taken many steps to show the support to keeping the prison open. The town have signs, people adorning the shirts, they held a parade with a lot of support, a town picture was taken, many meeting have been held and a lot of praying. We need the Pontiac Prison to remain open. The facts have not proven beyond a reasonable doubt that it should close. Please take the time, weigh out all options and make the right decision,

Sincerely,

Handwritten signature of Angela Sandoral in cursive script.

August 6, 2008

Senator Jeff Schoenberg - Co-Chairman
Representative Rich Meyers - Co-Chairman
Commission on Government
Forecasting and Accountability
703 Stratton Office Building
Springfield, IL 62706

Dear Senator Schoenberg and Representative Rich Meyers:

I am writing to you at this time concerning the topic of closing of Pontiac Prison. I ask as a citizen of Pontiac that you rethink this matter. The impact on the community way out weighs the money saved by the state (as they say). The prison is a viable establishment and can be run for several years. The impact of closing the prison would hit from the employees working there all the way to our school systems. As I see it would benefit more to keep it open, and use the other prisons as a place to handle some of the over crowding. Please re-consider closing the prison.

Sincerely, 

August 6, 2008

Senator Jeff Schoenberg - Co-Chairman
Representative Rich Meyers - Co-Chairman
Commission on Government
Forecasting and Accountability
703 Stratton Office Building
Springfield, Il 62706

Dear Senator Schoenberg and Representative Meyers:

Please re-consider this issue of closing Pontiac Prison. By now you have seen a lot of effort go into trying to make this not happen. The areas surrounding the prison have taken many steps to show the support to keeping the prison open. The town have signs, people adorning the shirts, they held a parade with a lot of support, a town picture was taken, many meeting have been held and a lot of praying. We need the Pontiac Prison to remain open. The facts have not proven beyond a reasonable doubt that it should close. Please take the time, weigh out all options and make the right decision,

Sincerely,

Margaret E. Green
Sophia E. Fecht

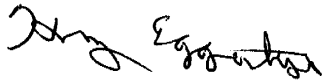
August 6, 2008

Senator Jeff Schoenberg - Co-Chairman
Representative Rich Meyers - Co-Chairman
Commission on Government
Forecasting and Accountability
703 Stratton Office Building
Springfield, Il 62706

Dear Senator Schoenberg and Representative Meyers:

Please re-consider this issue of closing Pontiac Prison. By now you have seen a lot of effort go into trying to make this not happen. The areas surrounding the prison have taken many steps to show the support to keeping the prison open. The town have signs, people adorning the shirts, they held a parade with a lot of support, a town picture was taken, many meeting have been held and a lot of praying. We need the Pontiac Prison to remain open. The facts have not proven beyond a reasonable doubt that it should close. Please take the time, weigh out all options and make the right decision,

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jeff Schoenberg". The signature is written in a cursive style with a long, sweeping underline.


August 6, 2008

Senator Jeff Schoenberg - Co-Chairman
Representative Rich Meyers - Co-Chairman
Commission on Government
Forecasting and Accountability
703 Stratton Office Building
Springfield, Il 62706

Dear Senator Schoenberg and Representative Meyers:

Please re-consider this issue of closing Pontiac Prison. By now you have seen a lot of effort go into trying to make this not happen. The areas surrounding the prison have taken many steps to show the support to keeping the prison open. The town have signs, people adorning the shirts, they held a parade with a lot of support, a town picture was taken, many meeting have been held and a lot of praying. We need the Pontiac Prison to remain open. The facts have not proven beyond a reasonable doubt that it should close. Please take the time, weigh out all options and make the right decision,

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Gerald Ohlson". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, prominent initial "G".

August 6, 2008

Senator Jeff Schoenberg - Co-Chairman
Representative Rich Meyers - Co-Chairman
Commission on Government
Forecasting and Accountability
703 Stratton Office Building
Springfield, IL 62706

Dear Senator Schoenberg and Representative Meyers:

Please re-consider this issue of closing Pontiac Prison. By now you have seen a lot of effort go into trying to make this not happen. The areas surrounding the prison have taken many steps to show the support to keeping the prison open. The town have signs, people adorning the shirts, they held a parade with a lot of support, a town picture was taken, many meeting have been held and a lot of praying. We need the Pontiac Prison to remain open. The facts have not proven beyond a reasonable doubt that it should close. Please take the time, weigh out all options and make the right decision,

Sincerely,

Mr. & Mrs. Michael L. Brown

August 6, 2008

Senator Jeff Schoenberg - Co-Chairman
Representative Rich Meyers - Co-Chairman
Commission on Government
Forecasting and Accountability
703 Stratton Office Building
Springfield, IL 62706

Dear Senator Schoenberg and Representative Meyers:

Please re-consider this issue of closing Pontiac Prison. By now you have seen a lot of effort go into trying to make this not happen. The areas surrounding the prison have taken many steps to show the support to keeping the prison open. The town have signs, people adorning the shirts, they held a parade with a lot of support, a town picture was taken, many meeting have been held and a lot of praying. We need the Pontiac Prison to remain open. The facts have not proven beyond a reasonable doubt that it should close. Please take the time, weigh out all options and make the right decision,

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be "J. Schoenberg", written in a cursive style. Below the signature is a long, horizontal, slightly wavy line.

August 6, 2008

Senator Jeff Schoenberg - Co-Chairman
Representative Rich Meyers - Co-Chairman
Commission on Government
Forecasting and Accountability
703 Stratton Office Building
Springfield, IL 62706

Dear Senator Schoenberg and Representative Meyers:

Gentlemen, please do not make a hasty decision of closing Pontiac Prison, by just looking at the one-time figures and as it is stated facts. As our elected officials taking the time to thoroughly look into this would be greatly appreciated. The closing of the prison would impact central Illinois in a very negative matter. I reside in Livingston County and my home value will drop, business will close, schools will suffer and unemployment will rise. My neighbors have been good employees for the State and serve the prison well. It would be a shame to make 600 or more people turn their lives upside down. I am asking as a citizen of Illinois that you take much more time to investigate this situation and leave Pontiac Prison open.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Judy Hynes". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned below the word "Sincerely,".

August 6, 2008

Senator Jeff Schoenberg - Co-Chairman
Representative Rich Meyers - Co-Chairman
Commission on Government
Forecasting and Accountability
703 Stratton Office Building
Springfield, Il 62706

Dear Senator Schoenberg and Representative Meyers:

Please re-consider this issue of closing Pontiac Prison. By now you have seen a lot of effort go into trying to make this not happen. The areas surrounding the prison have taken many steps to show the support to keeping the prison open. The town have signs, people adorning the shirts, they held a parade with a lot of support, a town picture was taken, many meeting have been held and a lot of praying. We need the Pontiac Prison to remain open. The facts have not proven beyond a reasonable doubt that it should close. Please take the time, weigh out all options and make the right decision,

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Diana J. Eggenberger". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned below the word "Sincerely,".

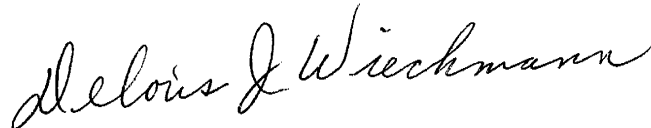
August 6, 2008

Senator Jeff Schoenberg - Co-Chairman
Representative Rich Meyers - Co-Chairman
Commission on Government
Forecasting and Accountability
703 Stratton Office Building
Springfield, Il 62706

Dear Senator Schoenberg and Representative Meyers:

Please re-consider this issue of closing Pontiac Prison. By now you have seen a lot of effort go into trying to make this not happen. The areas surrounding the prison have taken many steps to show the support to keeping the prison open. The town have signs, people adorning the shirts, they held a parade with a lot of support, a town picture was taken, many meeting have been held and a lot of praying. We need the Pontiac Prison to remain open. The facts have not proven beyond a reasonable doubt that it should close. Please take the time, weigh out all options and make the right decision,

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Deloris J. Wieckmann". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned to the right of the word "Sincerely,".

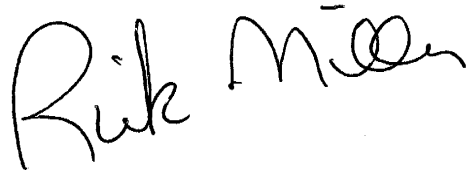
August 6, 2008

Senator Jeff Schoenberg - Co-Chairman
Representative Rich Meyers - Co-Chairman
Commission on Government
Forecasting and Accountability
703 Stratton Office Building
Springfield, IL 62706

Dear Senator Schoenberg and Representative Meyers:

Please re-consider this issue of closing Pontiac Prison. By now you have seen a lot of effort go into trying to make this not happen. The areas surrounding the prison have taken many steps to show the support to keeping the prison open. The town has signs, people adorning the shirts, they held a parade with a lot of support, a town picture was taken, many meetings have been held and a lot of praying. We need the Pontiac Prison to remain open. The facts have not proven beyond a reasonable doubt that it should close. Please take the time, weigh out all options and make the right decision,

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Rick Miller". The signature is written in a cursive style with a horizontal line above the "i" in "Miller".

August 6, 2008

Senator Jeff Schoenberg - Co-Chairman
Representative Rich Meyers - Co-Chairman
Commission on Government
Forecasting and Accountability
703 Stratton Office Building
Springfield, IL 62706

Dear Senator Schoenberg and Representative Meyers:

Please re-consider this issue of closing Pontiac Prison. By now you have seen a lot of effort go into trying to make this not happen. The area towns surrounding the prison have taken many steps to show their support to keeping the prison open. The towns have signs, people adorning tee-shirts, they held a parade with a lot of support, a town picture was taken, many meetings have been held and a lot of praying is being done. We need the Pontiac Prison to remain open. The facts have not proven beyond a reasonable doubt that it should close. Please take the time, with out all of the options and make the right decision. Keep PONTIAC PRISON open.

Sincerely,

Mrs. Francis D. Smith


August 6, 2008

Senator Jeff Schoenberg - Co-Chairman
Representative Rich Meyers - Co-Chairman
Commission on Government
Forecasting and Accountability
703 Stratton Office Building
Springfield, IL 62706

Dear Senator Schoenberg and Representative Meyers:

Please re-consider this issue of closing Pontiac Prison. By now you have seen a lot of effort go into trying to make this not happen. The area towns surrounding the prison have taken many steps to show their support to keeping the prison open. The towns have signs, people adorning tee-shirts, they held a parade with a lot of support, a town picture was taken, many meetings have been held and a lot of praying is being done. We need the Pontiac Prison to remain open. The facts have not proven beyond a reasonable doubt that it should close. Please take the time, with out all of the options and make the right decision. Keep PONTIAC PRISON open.

Sincerely,



MICHAEL W. BOHM

August 6, 2008

Senator Jeff Schoenberg - Co-Chairman
Representative Rich Meyers - Co-Chairman
Commission on Government
Forecasting and Accountability
703 Stratton Office Building
Springfield, Il 62706

Dear Senator Schoenberg and Representative Meyers:

Please re-consider this issue of closing Pontiac Prison. By now you have seen a lot of effort go into trying to make this not happen. The area towns surrounding the prison have taken many steps to show their support to keeping the prison open. The towns have signs, people adorning tee-shirts, they held a parade with a lot of support, a town picture was taken, many meetings have been held and alot of praying is being done. We need the Pontiac Prison to remain open. The facts have not proven beyond a reasonable doubt that it should close. Please take the time, with out all of the options and make the right decision. Keep PONTIAC PRISON open.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Henry Gotsch".

August 6, 2008

Senator Jeff Schoenberg - Co-Chairman
Representative Rich Meyers - Co-Chairman
Commission on Government
Forecasting and Accountability
703 Stratton Office Building
Springfield, IL 62706

Dear Senator Schoenberg and Representative Meyers:

Please re-consider this issue of closing Pontiac Prison. By now you have seen a lot of effort go into trying to make this not happen. The area towns surrounding the prison have taken many steps to show their support to keeping the prison open. The towns have signs, people adorning tee-shirts, they held a parade with a lot of support, a town picture was taken, many meetings have been held and a lot of praying is being done. We need the Pontiac Prison to remain open. The facts have not proven beyond a reasonable doubt that it should close. Please take the time, without all of the options and make the right decision. Keep PONTIAC PRISON open.

Sincerely,

Joan D. Ledford
Virgil V. Ledford

August 6, 2008

Senator Jeff Schoenberg - Co-Chairman
Representative Rich Meyers - Co-Chairman
Commission on Government
Forecasting and Accountability
703 Stratton Office Building
Springfield, Il 62706

Dear Senator Schoenberg and Representative Rich Meyers:

I am writing to you at this time concerning the topic of closing of Pontiac Prison. I ask as a citizen of Pontiac that you rethink this matter. The impact on the community way out weighs the money saved by the state (as they say). The prison is a viable establishment and can be run for several years. The impact of closing the prison would hit from the employees working there all the way to our school systems. As I see it would benefit more to keep it open, and use the other prisons as a place to handle some of the over crowding. Please re-consider closing the prison.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Rich Meyers". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large, sweeping flourish at the end.

August 6, 2008

Senator Jeff Schoenberg - Co-Chairman
Representative Rich Meyers - Co-Chairman
Commission on Government
Forecasting and Accountability
703 Stratton Office Building
Springfield, Il 62706

Dear Senator Schoenberg and Representative Rich Meyers:

I am writing to you at this time concerning the topic of closing of Pontiac Prison. I ask as a citizen of Pontiac that you rethink this matter. The impact on the community way out weighs the money saved by the state (as they say). The prison is a viable establishment and can be run for several years. The impact of closing the prison would hit from the employees working there all the way to our school systems. As I see it would benefit more to keep it open, and use the other prisons as a place to handle some of the over crowding. Please re-consider closing the prison.

Sincerely, 

August 6, 2008

Senator Jeff Schoenberg - Co-Chairman
Representative Rich Meyers - Co-Chairman
Commission on Government
Forecasting and Accountability
703 Stratton Office Building
Springfield, Il 62706

Dear Senator Schoenberg and Representative Rich Meyers:

I am writing to you at this time concerning the topic of closing of Pontiac Prison. I ask as a citizen of Pontiac that you rethink this matter. The impact on the community way out weighs the money saved by the state (as they say). The prison is a viable establishment and can be run for several years. The impact of closing the prison would hit from the employees working there all the way to our school systems. As I see it would benefit more to keep it open, and use the other prisons as a place to handle some of the over crowding. Please re-consider closing the prison.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Joey Buck". The signature is written in a cursive style with a long, sweeping underline that extends to the right.

August 6, 2008

Senator Jeff Schoenberg - Co-Chairman
Representative Rich Meyers - Co-Chairman
Commission on Government
Forecasting and Accountability
703 Stratton Office Building
Springfield, Il 62706

Dear Senator Schoenberg and Representative Meyers:

Please re-consider this issue of closing Pontiac Prison. By now you have seen a lot of effort go into trying to make this not happen. The area towns surrounding the prison have taken many steps to show their support to keeping the prison open. The towns have signs, people adorning tee-shirts, they held a parade with a lot of support, a town picture was taken, many meetings have been held and alot of praying is being done. We need the Pontiac Prison to remain open. The facts have not proven beyond a reasonable doubt that it should close. Please take the time, with out all of the options and make the right decision. Keep PONTIAC PRISON open.

Sincerely,

Mr. & Mrs. Leland Dore

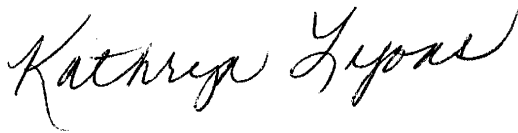
August 6, 2008

Senator Jeff Schoenberg - Co-Chairman
Representative Rich Meyers - Co-Chairman
Commission on Government
Forecasting and Accountability
703 Stratton Office Building
Springfield, IL 62706

Dear Senator Schoenberg and Representative Rich Meyers:

I am writing to you at this time concerning the topic of closing of Pontiac Prison. I ask as a citizen of Pontiac that you rethink this matter. The impact on the community way out weighs the money saved by the state (as they say). The prison is a viable establishment and can be run for several years. The impact of closing the prison would hit from the employees working there all the way to our school systems. As I see it would benefit more to keep it open, and use the other prisons as a place to handle some of the over crowding. Please re-consider closing the prison.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Kathryn Lopez". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned below the word "Sincerely,".

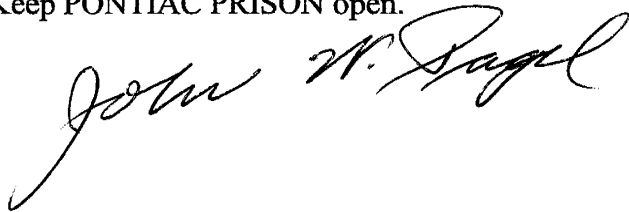
August 6, 2008

Senator Jeff Schoenberg - Co-Chairman
Representative Rich Meyers - Co-Chairman
Commission on Government
Forecasting and Accountability
703 Stratton Office Building
Springfield, IL 62706

Dear Senator Schoenberg and Representative Meyers:

Please re-consider this issue of closing Pontiac Prison. By now you have seen a lot of effort go into trying to make this not happen. The area towns surrounding the prison have taken many steps to show their support to keeping the prison open. The towns have signs, people adorning tee-shirts, they held a parade with a lot of support, a town picture was taken, many meetings have been held and a lot of praying is being done. We need the Pontiac Prison to remain open. The facts have not proven beyond a reasonable doubt that it should close. Please take the time, without all of the options and make the right decision. Keep PONTIAC PRISON open.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "John W. Sage". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned to the right of the word "Sincerely,".

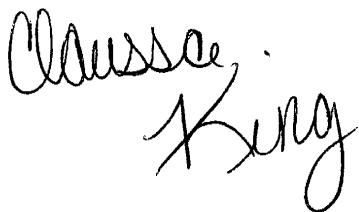
August 6, 2008

Senator Jeff Schoenberg - Co-Chairman
Representative Rich Meyers - Co-Chairman
Commission on Government
Forecasting and Accountability
703 Stratton Office Building
Springfield, Il 62706

Dear Senator Schoenberg and Representative Meyers:

Please re-consider this issue of closing Pontiac Prison. By now you have seen a lot of effort go into trying to make this not happen. The area towns surrounding the prison have taken many steps to show their support to keeping the prison open. The towns have signs, people adorning tee-shirts, they held a parade with a lot of support, a town picture was taken, many meetings have been held and alot of praying is being done. We need the Pontiac Prison to remain open. The facts have not proven beyond a reasonable doubt that it should close. Please take the time, with out all of the options and make the right decision. Keep PONTIAC PRISON open.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Claissa King". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, stylized "K" and a long, sweeping underline.

August 6, 2008

Senator Jeff Schoenberg - Co-Chairman^{*}
Representative Rich Meyers - Co-Chairman
Commission on Government
Forecasting and Accountability
703 Stratton Office Building
Springfield, Il 62706

Dear Senator Schoenberg and Representative Meyers:

Please re-consider this issue of closing Pontiac Prison. By now you have seen a lot of effort go into trying to make this not happen. The area towns surrounding the prison have taken many steps to show their support to keeping the prison open. The towns have signs, people adorning tee-shirts, they held a parade with a lot of support, a town picture was taken, many meetings have been held and alot of praying is being done. We need the Pontiac Prison to remain open. The facts have not proven beyond a reasonable doubt that it should close. Please take the time, with out all of the options and make the right decision. Keep PONTIAC PRISON open.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Tim G. Martin". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, sweeping initial "T".

August 6, 2008

Senator Jeff Schoenberg - Co-Chairman
Representative Rich Meyers - Co-Chairman
Commission on Government
Forecasting and Accountability
703 Stratton Office Building
Springfield, Il 62706

Dear Senator Schoenberg and Representative Meyers:

Please re-consider this issue of closing Pontiac Prison. By now you have seen a lot of effort go into trying to make this not happen. The area towns surrounding the prison have taken many steps to show their support to keeping the prison open. The towns have signs, people adorning tee-shirts, they held a parade with a lot of support, a town picture was taken, many meetings have been held and alot of praying is being done. We need the Pontiac Prison to remain open. The facts have not proven beyond a reasonable doubt that it should close. Please take the time, with out all of the options and make the right decision. Keep PONTIAC PRISON open.

Sincerely,

Willis J. Branz
3 Manor Drive
Pontiac, Il. 61764
815-842-2594

Christine M. Gallup

800 John Street
Pontiac, IL 61764
815-842-0304
seth89dave03@verizon.net

August 17, 2008

Dear Governor Blagojevich,

It angered me when you justified the special assembly in Springfield by stating that you would stop the special assembly if they came up with a plan for education and a plan to create more jobs. Yet, you want to close Pontiac Prison!!! How does closing Pontiac Prison add to the jobs that Illinois so badly needs?

The State of Illinois leads the nation with the greatest number of food stamp recipients. How does closing the Prison reduce the amount of food stamps being given to needy people? It doesn't - it will just increase the numbers. By closing Pontiac Prison, you are giving a "death sentence" to Pontiac. What do you have against Pontiac, Illinois? Not only is this second time you have threatened to close the prison, during the recent winter flooding you did not come to Pontiac nor did you give the order to have the National Guard help out. It seems strange, since we have a National Guard unit in Pontiac that has recently been deployed. They are good enough to protect foreign shores, but not help out in their own county. If Pontiac Prison closes, this will lead to financial hardship that we will not recover from. I know of a restaurant owner, who is successful and whose husband is a prison guard. If the prison closes, her restaurant will close and they will move from the state. The State of Illinois and we will lose a good family, lose jobs (all her staff will now be unemployed), lose tax money, etc. Pontiac will lose economically as well. No tax money from the business, no property taxes, less children in our school system, less government money for our schools. It is a snowball effect. Pontiac will become a ghost town.

Not only would we suffer from the Prison closing, one of our employers, Interlake Inc. recently had to cut their third shift due to the economy. Our county nursing home is also going through its own strife with trying to remain open. Where does this all end? It seems that Central Illinois is not on your map, although it is on Interstate 55, which leads to Springfield, yet you don't

seem to know where we are in location to Chicago.

We are a farming community or "rural" community but without us, do you know how our state will suffer? Most of the "farmers" hold down at least two jobs. They farm and are employed in other facets here. Some work for Caterpillar, some work for RR Donnelly's, John Deere and other employers. Can you afford to place these hard working people on state aid? Can our state continually give out food stamps? The local St. Vincent DePaul food pantry has seen an increase in the numbers of families that it services this year. Before the flood, they served 50-60 families per week, now they see 75-96 families per week. One food pantry in Forrest, Illinois, ran out of food! How many more people will need help if you close the prison? How can a community who is willing to help out their neighbors be able to help with ever increasing numbers? Are people lazy and don't want to work? That is highly doubtful. Food prices have increased, jobs have been lost, rent has increased, and energy costs have skyrocketed; yet YOU are supporting a move to close the Prison. Can you explain yourself on this matter? What has Pontiac, Illinois done to "offend" you? YOU must stop this and leave the Prison open or the death of our city is on your head. Can you live with that fact?

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Christine M. Gully".

Cc: Dan Rutherford
Senator Jeff Schoenberg
Representative Rich Myers

August 6, 2008

Senator Jeff Schoenberg - Co-Chairman
Representative Rich Meyers - Co-Chairman
Commission on Government
Forecasting and Accountability
703 Stratton Office Building
Springfield, IL 62706

Dear Senator Schoenberg and Representative Meyers:

Please re-consider this issue of closing Pontiac Prison. By now you have seen a lot of effort go into trying to make this not happen. The area towns surrounding the prison have taken many steps to show their support to keeping the prison open. The towns have signs, people adorning tee-shirts, they held a parade with a lot of support, a town picture was taken, many meetings have been held and a lot of praying is being done. We need the Pontiac Prison to remain open. The facts have not proven beyond a reasonable doubt that it should close. Please take the time, without all of the options and make the right decision. Keep PONTIAC PRISON open.

Sincerely,

Elizabeth White

August 6, 2008

Senator Jeff Schoenberg - Co-Chairman
Representative Rich Meyers - Co-Chairman
Commission on Government
Forecasting and Accountability
703 Stratton Office Building
Springfield, Il 62706

Dear Senator Schoenberg and Representative Meyers:

Please re-consider this issue of closing Pontiac Prison. By now you have seen a lot of effort go into trying to make this not happen. The area towns surrounding the prison have taken many steps to show their support to keeping the prison open. The towns have signs, people adorning tee-shirts, they held a parade with a lot of support, a town picture was taken, many meetings have been held and alot of praying is being done. We need the Pontiac Prison to remain open. The facts have not proven beyond a reasonable doubt that it should close. Please take the time, with out all of the options and make the right decision. Keep PONTIAC PRISON open.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Lee Boekman". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned to the right of the word "Sincerely,".

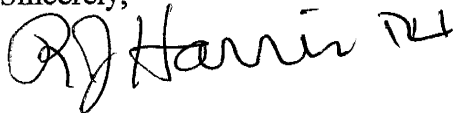
August 6, 2008

Senator Jeff Schoenberg - Co-Chairman
Representative Rich Meyers - Co-Chairman
Commission on Government
Forecasting and Accountability
703 Stratton Office Building
Springfield, Il 62706

Dear Senator Schoenberg and Representative Meyers:

Please re-consider this issue of closing Pontiac Prison. By now you have seen a lot of effort go into trying to make this not happen. The area towns surrounding the prison have taken many steps to show their support to keeping the prison open. The towns have signs, people adorning tee-shirts, they held a parade with a lot of support, a town picture was taken, many meetings have been held and alot of praying is being done. We need the Pontiac Prison to remain open. The facts have not proven beyond a reasonable doubt that it should close. Please take the time, with out all of the options and make the right decision. Keep PONTIAC PRISON open.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "RJ Harris" followed by a stylized flourish.

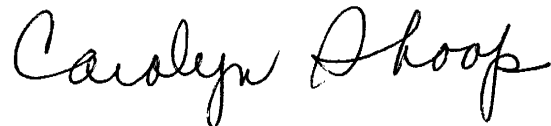
August 6, 2008

Senator Jeff Schoenberg - Co-Chairman
Representative Rich Meyers - Co-Chairman
Commission on Government
Forecasting and Accountability
703 Stratton Office Building
Springfield, IL 62706

Dear Senator Schoenberg and Representative Meyers:

Please re-consider this issue of closing Pontiac Prison. By now you have seen a lot of effort go into trying to make this not happen. The area towns surrounding the prison have taken many steps to show their support to keeping the prison open. The towns have signs, people adorning tee-shirts, they held a parade with a lot of support, a town picture was taken, many meetings have been held and a lot of praying is being done. We need the Pontiac Prison to remain open. The facts have not proven beyond a reasonable doubt that it should close. Please take the time, with out all of the options and make the right decision. Keep PONTIAC PRISON open.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Carolyn Shoop". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned below the word "Sincerely,".

August 6, 2008

Senator Jeff Schoenberg - Co-Chairman
Representative Rich Meyers - Co-Chairman
Commission on Government
Forecasting and Accountability
703 Stratton Office Building
Springfield, IL 62706

Dear Senator Schoenberg and Representative Meyers:

Please re-consider this issue of closing Pontiac Prison. By now you have seen a lot of effort go into trying to make this not happen. The areas surrounding the prison have taken many steps to show the support to keeping the prison open. The town have signs, people adorning the shirts, they held a parade with a lot of support, a town picture was taken, many meeting have been held and a lot of praying. We need the Pontiac Prison to remain open. The facts have not proven beyond a reasonable doubt that it should close. Please take the time, weigh out all options and make the right decision,

Sincerely,

Dawn H. Whitney

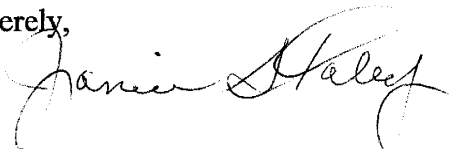
August 6, 2008

Senator Jeff Schoenberg - Co-Chairman^{*}
Representative Rich Meyers - Co-Chairman
Commission on Government
Forecasting and Accountability
703 Stratton Office Building
Springfield, IL 62706

Dear Senator Schoenberg and Representative Meyers:

Please re-consider this issue of closing Pontiac Prison. By now you have seen a lot of effort go into trying to make this not happen. The area towns surrounding the prison have taken many steps to show their support to keeping the prison open. The towns have signs, people adorning tee-shirts, they held a parade with a lot of support, a town picture was taken, many meetings have been held and a lot of praying is being done. We need the Pontiac Prison to remain open. The facts have not proven beyond a reasonable doubt that it should close. Please take the time, without all of the options and make the right decision. Keep PONTIAC PRISON open.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "James Daley". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned below the word "Sincerely,".

August 6, 2008

Senator Jeff Schoenberg - Co-Chairman
Representative Rich Meyers - Co-Chairman
Commission on Government
Forecasting and Accountability
703 Stratton Office Building
Springfield, Il 62706

Dear Senator Schoenberg and Representative Meyers:

Gentleman lets not make a hasty decision of closing Pontiac Prison, by just looking at the one time figures and as it is stated facts. As our elected officials taking the time to thoroughly look into this would be greatly appreciated. The closing of the prison would impact central Illinois in a very negative matter. I reside in Livingston County and my home value will drop, business will close, schools will suffer and unemployment will rise. My neighbors have been good employees for the State and serve the prison well. It would be a shame to make 600 or more people turn their lives upside down. I am asking as a citizen of Illinois that you take much more time to investigate this situation and leave Pontiac Prison open.

Sincerely,

Frances Russow

August 6, 2008

Senator Jeff Schoenberg - Co-Chairman
Representative Rich Meyers - Co-Chairman
Commission on Government
Forecasting and Accountability
703 Stratton Office Building
Springfield, IL 62706

Dear Senator Schoenberg and Representative Meyers:

Gentleman lets not make a hasty decision of closing Pontiac Prison, by just looking at the one time figures and as it is stated facts. As our elected officials taking the time to thoroughly look into this would be greatly appreciated. The closing of the prison would impact central Illinois in a very negative matter. I reside in Livingston County and my home value will drop, business will close, schools will suffer and unemployment will rise. My neighbors have been good employees for the State and serve the prison well. It would be a shame to make 600 or more people turn their lives upside down. I am asking as a citizen of Illinois that you take much more time to investigate this situation and leave Pontiac Prison open.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Sonya Henkel". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned below the word "Sincerely,".

August 6, 2008

Senator Jeff Schoenberg - Co-Chairman
Representative Rich Meyers - Co-Chairman
Commission on Government
Forecasting and Accountability
703 Stratton Office Building
Springfield, Il 62706

Dear Senator Schoenberg and Representative Meyers:

Please re-consider this issue of closing Pontiac Prison. By now you have seen a lot of effort go into trying to make this not happen. The areas surrounding the prison have taken many steps to show the support to keeping the prison open. The town have signs, people adorning the shirts, they held a parade with a lot of support, a town picture was taken, many meeting have been held and a lot of praying. We need the Pontiac Prison to remain open. The facts have not proven beyond a reasonable doubt that it should close. Please take the time, weigh out all options and make the right decision,

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Sally Kneip". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, prominent "S" and "K".

August 6, 2008

Senator Jeff Schoenberg - Co-Chairman
Representative Rich Meyers - Co-Chairman
Commission on Government
Forecasting and Accountability
703 Stratton Office Building
Springfield, Il 62706

Dear Senator Schoenberg and Representative Meyers:

Please re-consider this issue of closing Pontiac Prison. By now you have seen a lot of effort go into trying to make this not happen. The area towns surrounding the prison have taken many steps to show their support to keeping the prison open. The towns have signs, people adorning tee-shirts, they held a parade with a lot of support, a town picture was taken, many meetings have been held and alot of praying is being done. We need the Pontiac Prison to remain open. The facts have not proven beyond a reasonable doubt that it should close. Please take the time, with out all of the options and make the right decision. Keep PONTIAC PRISON open.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Mark A. Stroh". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, prominent initial "M".

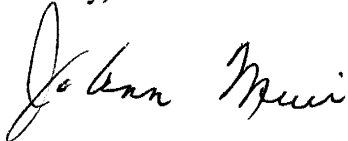
August 6, 2008

Senator Jeff Schoenberg - Co-Chairman
Representative Rich Meyers - Co-Chairman
Commission on Government
Forecasting and Accountability
703 Stratton Office Building
Springfield, Il 62706

Dear Senator Schoenberg and Representative Meyers:

Please re-consider this issue of closing Pontiac Prison. By now you have seen a lot of effort go into trying to make this not happen. The area towns surrounding the prison have taken many steps to show their support to keeping the prison open. The towns have signs, people adorning tee-shirts, they held a parade with a lot of support, a town picture was taken, many meetings have been held and alot of praying is being done. We need the Pontiac Prison to remain open. The facts have not proven beyond a reasonable doubt that it should close. Please take the time, with out all of the options and make the right decision. Keep PONTIAC PRISON open.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "John Mui". The signature is written in black ink on a white background.

August 6, 2008

Senator Jeff Schoenberg - Co-Chairman
Representative Rich Meyers - Co-Chairman
Commission on Government
Forecasting and Accountability
703 Stratton Office Building
Springfield, IL 62706

Dear Senator Schoenberg and Representative Meyers:

Please re-consider this issue of closing Pontiac Prison. By now you have seen a lot of effort go into trying to make this not happen. The area towns surrounding the prison have taken many steps to show their support to keeping the prison open. The towns have signs, people adorning tee-shirts, they held a parade with a lot of support, a town picture was taken, many meetings have been held and a lot of praying is being done. We need the Pontiac Prison to remain open. The facts have not proven beyond a reasonable doubt that it should close. Please take the time, without all of the options and make the right decision. Keep PONTIAC PRISON open.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Shay Babington". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned below the word "Sincerely,".

August 6, 2008

Senator Jeff Schoenberg - Co-Chairman
Representative Rich Meyers - Co-Chairman
Commission on Government
Forecasting and Accountability
703 Stratton Office Building
Springfield, IL 62706

Dear Senator Schoenberg and Representative Meyers:

Please re-consider this issue of closing Pontiac Prison. By now you have seen a lot of effort go into trying to make this not happen. The area towns surrounding the prison have taken many steps to show their support to keeping the prison open. The towns have signs, people adorning tee-shirts, they held a parade with a lot of support, a town picture was taken, many meetings have been held and a lot of praying is being done. We need the Pontiac Prison to remain open. The facts have not proven beyond a reasonable doubt that it should close. Please take the time, without all of the options and make the right decision. Keep PONTIAC PRISON open.

Sincerely, 

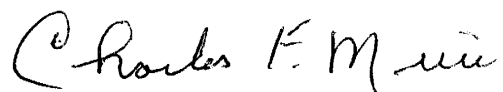
August 6, 2008

Senator Jeff Schoenberg - Co-Chairman
Representative Rich Meyers - Co-Chairman
Commission on Government
Forecasting and Accountability
703 Stratton Office Building
Springfield, Il 62706

Dear Senator Schoenberg and Representative Meyers:

Please re-consider this issue of closing Pontiac Prison. By now you have seen a lot of effort go into trying to make this not happen. The area towns surrounding the prison have taken many steps to show their support to keeping the prison open. The towns have signs, people adorning tee-shirts, they held a parade with a lot of support, a town picture was taken, many meetings have been held and alot of praying is being done. We need the Pontiac Prison to remain open. The facts have not proven beyond a reasonable doubt that it should close. Please take the time, with out all of the options and make the right decision. Keep PONTIAC PRISON open.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Charles F. Merri". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned below the word "Sincerely,".

August 6, 2008

Senator Jeff Schoenberg - Co-Chairman
Representative Rich Meyers - Co-Chairman
Commission on Government
Forecasting and Accountability
703 Stratton Office Building
Springfield, Il 62706

Dear Senator Schoenberg and Representative Meyers:

Please re-consider this issue of closing Pontiac Prison. By now you have seen a lot of effort go into trying to make this not happen. The area towns surrounding the prison have taken many steps to show their support to keeping the prison open. The towns have signs, people adorning tee-shirts, they held a parade with a lot of support, a town picture was taken, many meetings have been held and alot of praying is being done. We need the Pontiac Prison to remain open. The facts have not proven beyond a reasonable doubt that it should close. Please take the time, with out all of the options and make the right decision. Keep PONTIAC PRISON open.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Susan McClure". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned below the word "Sincerely,".

August 6, 2008

Senator Jeff Schoenberg - Co-Chairman
Representative Rich Meyers - Co-Chairman
Commission on Government
Forecasting and Accountability
703 Stratton Office Building
Springfield, Il 62706

Dear Senator Schoenberg and Representative Meyers:

Please re-consider this issue of closing Pontiac Prison. By now you have seen a lot of effort go into trying to make this not happen. The area towns surrounding the prison have taken many steps to show their support to keeping the prison open. The towns have signs, people adorning tee-shirts, they held a parade with a lot of support, a town picture was taken, many meetings have been held and alot of praying is being done. We need the Pontiac Prison to remain open. The facts have not proven beyond a reasonable doubt that it should close. Please take the time, with out all of the options and make the right decision. Keep PONTIAC PRISON open.

Sincerely, 

August 6, 2008

Senator Jeff Schoenberg - Co-Chairman
Representative Rich Meyers - Co-Chairman
Commission on Government
Forecasting and Accountability
703 Stratton Office Building
Springfield, IL 62706

Dear Senator Schoenberg and Representative Meyers:

Please re-consider this issue of closing Pontiac Prison. By now you have seen a lot of effort go into trying to make this not happen. The area towns surrounding the prison have taken many steps to show their support to keeping the prison open. The towns have signs, people adorning tee-shirts, they held a parade with a lot of support, a town picture was taken, many meetings have been held and a lot of praying is being done. We need the Pontiac Prison to remain open. The facts have not proven beyond a reasonable doubt that it should close. Please take the time, without all of the options and make the right decision. Keep PONTIAC PRISON open.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Julie Maurer". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned below the word "Sincerely,".

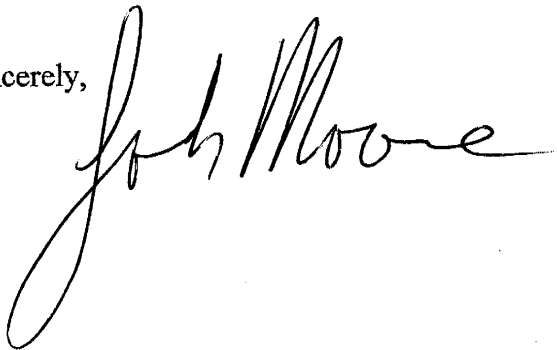
August 6, 2008

Senator Jeff Schoenberg - Co-Chairman
Representative Rich Meyers - Co-Chairman
Commission on Government
Forecasting and Accountability
703 Stratton Office Building
Springfield, Il 62706

Dear Senator Schoenberg and Representative Meyers:

Please re-consider this issue of closing Pontiac Prison. By now you have seen a lot of effort go into trying to make this not happen. The area towns surrounding the prison have taken many steps to show their support to keeping the prison open. The towns have signs, people adorning tee-shirts, they held a parade with a lot of support, a town picture was taken, many meetings have been held and alot of praying is being done. We need the Pontiac Prison to remain open. The facts have not proven beyond a reasonable doubt that it should close. Please take the time, with out all of the options and make the right decision. Keep PONTIAC PRISON open.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "John Moore". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, looping initial "J".

August 6, 2008

Senator Jeff Schoenberg - Co-Chairman
Representative Rich Meyers - Co-Chairman
Commission on Government
Forecasting and Accountability
703 Stratton Office Building
Springfield, Il 62706

Dear Senator Schoenberg and Representative Meyers:

Gentleman lets not make a hasty decision of closing Pontiac Prison, by just looking at the one time figures and as it is stated facts. As our elected officials taking the time to thoroughly look into this would be greatly appreciated. The closing of the prison would impact central Illinois in a very negative matter. I reside in Livingston County and my home value will drop, business will close, schools will suffer and unemployment will rise. My neighbors have been good employees for the State and serve the prison well. It would be a shame to make 600 or more people turn their lives upside down. I am asking as a citizen of Illinois that you take much more time to investigate this situation and leave Pontiac Prison open.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Ronald Shoops". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned below the word "Sincerely,".

August 6, 2008

Senator Jeff Schoenberg - Co-Chairman
Representative Rich Meyers - Co-Chairman
Commission on Government
Forecasting and Accountability
703 Stratton Office Building
Springfield, Il 62706

Dear Senator Schoenberg and Representative Meyers:

Gentleman lets not make a hasty decision of closing Pontiac Prison, by just looking at the one time figures and as it is stated facts. As our elected officials taking the time to thoroughly look into this would be greatly appreciated. The closing of the prison would impact central Illinois in a very negative matter. I reside in Livingston County and my home value will drop, business will close, schools will suffer and unemployment will rise. My neighbors have been good employees for the State and serve the prison well. It would be a shame to make 600 or more people turn their lives upside down. I am asking as a citizen of Illinois that you take much more time to investigate this situation and leave Pontiac Prison open.

Sincerely, 

August 6, 2008

Senator Jeff Schoenberg - Co-Chairman
Representative Rich Meyers - Co-Chairman
Commission on Government
Forecasting and Accountability
703 Stratton Office Building
Springfield, IL 62706

Dear Senator Schoenberg and Representative Meyers:

Please re-consider this issue of closing Pontiac Prison. By now you have seen a lot of effort go into trying to make this not happen. The areas surrounding the prison have taken many steps to show the support to keeping the prison open. The town have signs, people adorning the shirts, they held a parade with a lot of support, a town picture was taken, many meeting have been held and a lot of praying. We need the Pontiac Prison to remain open. The facts have not proven beyond a reasonable doubt that it should close. Please take the time, weigh out all options and make the right decision,

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Mick Gowley". The signature is written in black ink and has a long, sweeping underline that extends to the right.

August 6, 2008

Senator Jeff Schoenberg - Co-Chairman
Representative Rich Meyers - Co-Chairman
Commission on Government
Forecasting and Accountability
703 Stratton Office Building
Springfield, Il 62706

Dear Senator Schoenberg and Representative Meyers:

Please re-consider this issue of closing Pontiac Prison. By now you have seen a lot of effort go into trying to make this not happen. The areas surrounding the prison have taken many steps to show the support to keeping the prison open. The town have signs, people adorning the shirts, they held a parade with a lot of support, a town picture was taken, many meeting have been held and a lot of praying. We need the Pontiac Prison to remain open. The facts have not proven beyond a reasonable doubt that it should close. Please take the time, weigh out all options and make the right decision,

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Colleen Weber". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned below the word "Sincerely,".

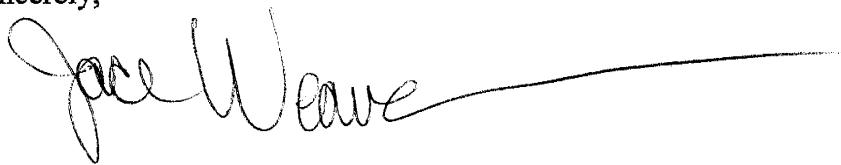
August 6, 2008

Senator Jeff Schoenberg - Co-Chairman
Representative Rich Meyers - Co-Chairman
Commission on Government
Forecasting and Accountability
703 Stratton Office Building
Springfield, IL 62706

Dear Senator Schoenberg and Representative Meyers:

Gentlemen, please do not make a hasty decision of closing Pontiac Prison, by just looking at the one-time figures and as it is stated facts. As our elected officials taking the time to thoroughly look into this would be greatly appreciated. The closing of the prison would impact central Illinois in a very negative matter. I reside in Livingston County and my home value will drop, business will close, schools will suffer and unemployment will rise. My neighbors have been good employees for the State and serve the prison well. It would be a shame to make 600 or more people turn their lives upside down. I am asking as a citizen of Illinois that you take much more time to investigate this situation and leave Pontiac Prison open.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Joe Weave". The signature is written in black ink and extends across the width of the page with a long horizontal flourish.

August 6, 2008

Senator Jeff Schoenberg - Co-Chairman
Representative Rich Meyers - Co-Chairman
Commission on Government
Forecasting and Accountability
703 Stratton Office Building
Springfield, Il 62706

Dear Senator Schoenberg and Representative Meyers:

Gentleman lets not make a hasty decision of closing Pontiac Prison, by just looking at the one time figures and as it is stated facts. As our elected officials taking the time to thoroughly look into this would be greatly appreciated. The closing of the prison would impact central Illinois in a very negative matter. I reside in Livingston County and my home value will drop, business will close, schools will suffer and unemployment will rise. My neighbors have been good employees for the State and serve the prison well. It would be a shame to make 600 or more people turn their lives upside down. I am asking as a citizen of Illinois that you take much more time to investigate this situation and leave Pontiac Prison open.

Sincerely,

Mary H. Burke

August 6, 2008

Senator Jeff Schoenberg - Co-Chairman
Representative Rich Meyers - Co-Chairman
Commission on Government
Forecasting and Accountability
703 Stratton Office Building
Springfield, IL 62706

Dear Senator Schoenberg and Representative Meyers:

Please re-consider this issue of closing Pontiac Prison. By now you have seen a lot of effort go into trying to make this not happen. The area towns surrounding the prison have taken many steps to show their support to keeping the prison open. The towns have signs, people adorning tee-shirts, they held a parade with a lot of support, a town picture was taken, many meetings have been held and a lot of praying is being done. We need the Pontiac Prison to remain open. The facts have not proven beyond a reasonable doubt that it should close. Please take the time, without all of the options and make the right decision. Keep PONTIAC PRISON open.

Sincerely,

Karen A. Christianson

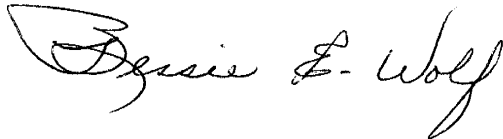
August 6, 2008

Senator Jeff Schoenberg - Co-Chairman
Representative Rich Meyers - Co-Chairman
Commission on Government
Forecasting and Accountability
703 Stratton Office Building
Springfield, Il 62706

Dear Senator Schoenberg and Representative Meyers:

Please re-consider this issue of closing Pontiac Prison. By now you have seen a lot of effort go into trying to make this not happen. The area towns surrounding the prison have taken many steps to show their support to keeping the prison open. The towns have signs, people adorning tee-shirts, they held a parade with a lot of support, a town picture was taken, many meetings have been held and alot of praying is being done. We need the Pontiac Prison to remain open. The facts have not proven beyond a reasonable doubt that it should close. Please take the time, with out all of the options and make the right decision. Keep PONTIAC PRISON open.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Jessie E. Wolf". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned below the word "Sincerely,".

August 6, 2008

Senator Jeff Schoenberg - Co-Chairman^{*}
Representative Rich Meyers - Co-Chairman
Commission on Government
Forecasting and Accountability
703 Stratton Office Building
Springfield, IL 62706

Dear Senator Schoenberg and Representative Meyers:

Please re-consider this issue of closing Pontiac Prison. By now you have seen a lot of effort go into trying to make this not happen. The area towns surrounding the prison have taken many steps to show their support to keeping the prison open. The towns have signs, people adorning tee-shirts, they held a parade with a lot of support, a town picture was taken, many meetings have been held and a lot of praying is being done. We need the Pontiac Prison to remain open. The facts have not proven beyond a reasonable doubt that it should close. Please take the time, with out all of the options and make the right decision. Keep PONTIAC PRISON open.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Bonnie Bury". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned below the word "Sincerely,".

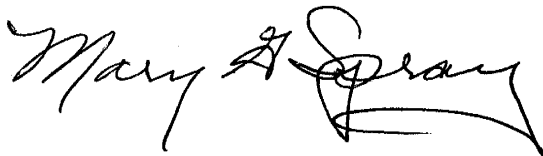
August 6, 2008

Senator Jeff Schoenberg - Co-Chairman
Representative Rich Meyers - Co-Chairman
Commission on Government
Forecasting and Accountability
703 Stratton Office Building
Springfield, IL 62706

Dear Senator Schoenberg and Representative Meyers:

Please re-consider this issue of closing Pontiac Prison. By now you have seen a lot of effort go into trying to make this not happen. The areas surrounding the prison have taken many steps to show the support to keeping the prison open. The town have signs, people adorning the shirts, they held a parade with a lot of support, a town picture was taken, many meeting have been held and a lot of praying. We need the Pontiac Prison to remain open. The facts have not proven beyond a reasonable doubt that it should close. Please take the time, weigh out all options and make the right decision,

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Mary A. Spray". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, sweeping flourish at the end.

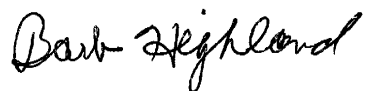
August 6, 2008

Senator Jeff Schoenberg - Co-Chairman
Representative Rich Meyers - Co-Chairman
Commission on Government
Forecasting and Accountability
703 Stratton Office Building
Springfield, Il 62706

Dear Senator Schoenberg and Representative Meyers:

Please re-consider this issue of closing Pontiac Prison. By now you have seen a lot of effort go into trying to make this not happen. The areas surrounding the prison have taken many steps to show the support to keeping the prison open. The town have signs, people adorning the shirts, they held a parade with a lot of support, a town picture was taken, many meeting have been held and a lot of praying. We need the Pontiac Prison to remain open. The facts have not proven beyond a reasonable doubt that it should close. Please take the time, weigh out all options and make the right decision,

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Barb Highland".

August 6, 2008

Senator Jeff Schoenberg - Co-Chairman
Representative Rich Meyers - Co-Chairman
Commission on Government
Forecasting and Accountability
703 Stratton Office Building
Springfield, IL 62706

Dear Senator Schoenberg and Representative Meyers:

Please re-consider this issue of closing Pontiac Prison. By now you have seen a lot of effort go into trying to make this not happen. The area towns surrounding the prison have taken many steps to show their support to keeping the prison open. The towns have signs, people adorning tee-shirts, they held a parade with a lot of support, a town picture was taken, many meetings have been held and a lot of praying is being done. We need the Pontiac Prison to remain open. The facts have not proven beyond a reasonable doubt that it should close. Please take the time, without all of the options and make the right decision. Keep PONTIAC PRISON open.

Sincerely,

Marsha Meister
Leroy Meister

August 6, 2008

Senator Jeff Schoenberg - Co-Chairman
Representative Rich Meyers - Co-Chairman
Commission on Government
Forecasting and Accountability
703 Stratton Office Building
Springfield, IL 62706

Dear Senator Schoenberg and Representative Meyers:

Please re-consider this issue of closing Pontiac Prison. By now you have seen a lot of effort go into trying to make this not happen. The area towns surrounding the prison have taken many steps to show their support to keeping the prison open. The towns have signs, people adorning tee-shirts, they held a parade with a lot of support, a town picture was taken, many meetings have been held and a lot of praying is being done. We need the Pontiac Prison to remain open. The facts have not proven beyond a reasonable doubt that it should close. Please take the time, without all of the options and make the right decision. Keep PONTIAC PRISON open.

Sincerely,

Ray & Marilyn Costone

August 6, 2008

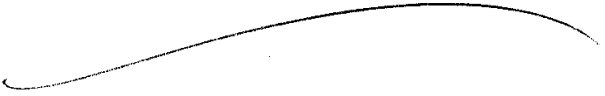
Senator Jeff Schoenberg - Co-Chairman
Representative Rich Meyers - Co-Chairman
Commission on Government
Forecasting and Accountability
703 Stratton Office Building
Springfield, Il 62706

Dear Senator Schoenberg and Representative Meyers:

Please re-consider this issue of closing Pontiac Prison. By now you have seen a lot of effort go into trying to make this not happen. The area towns surrounding the prison have taken many steps to show their support to keeping the prison open. The towns have signs, people adorning tee-shirts, they held a parade with a lot of support, a town picture was taken, many meetings have been held and alot of praying is being done. We need the Pontiac Prison to remain open. The facts have not proven beyond a reasonable doubt that it should close. Please take the time, with out all of the options and make the right decision. Keep PONTIAC PRISON open.

Sincerely,

Josephine Schultz



August 6, 2008

Senator Jeff Schoenberg - Co-Chairman
Representative Rich Meyers - Co-Chairman
Commission on Government
Forecasting and Accountability
703 Stratton Office Building
Springfield, IL 62706

Dear Senator Schoenberg and Representative Meyers:

Please re-consider this issue of closing Pontiac Prison. By now you have seen a lot of effort go into trying to make this not happen. The area towns surrounding the prison have taken many steps to show their support to keeping the prison open. The towns have signs, people adorning tee-shirts, they held a parade with a lot of support, a town picture was taken, many meetings have been held and a lot of praying is being done. We need the Pontiac Prison to remain open. The facts have not proven beyond a reasonable doubt that it should close. Please take the time, without all of the options and make the right decision. Keep PONTIAC PRISON open.

Sincerely,

Mr. & Mrs. Richard J. J.

August 6, 2008

Senator Jeff Schoenberg - Co-Chairman^{*}
Representative Rich Meyers - Co-Chairman
Commission on Government
Forecasting and Accountability
703 Stratton Office Building
Springfield, Il 62706

Dear Senator Schoenberg and Representative Meyers:

Please re-consider this issue of closing Pontiac Prison. By now you have seen a lot of effort go into trying to make this not happen. The area towns surrounding the prison have taken many steps to show their support to keeping the prison open. The towns have signs, people adorning tee-shirts, they held a parade with a lot of support, a town picture was taken, many meetings have been held and alot of praying is being done. We need the Pontiac Prison to remain open. The facts have not proven beyond a reasonable doubt that it should close. Please take the time, with out all of the options and make the right decision. Keep PONTIAC PRISON open.

Sincerely, 

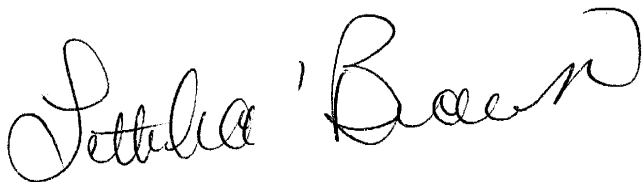
August 6, 2008

Senator Jeff Schoenberg - Co-Chairman
Representative Rich Meyers - Co-Chairman
Commission on Government
Forecasting and Accountability
703 Stratton Office Building
Springfield, Il 62706

Dear Senator Schoenberg and Representative Meyers:

Please re-consider this issue of closing Pontiac Prison. By now you have seen a lot of effort go into trying to make this not happen. The area towns surrounding the prison have taken many steps to show their support to keeping the prison open. The towns have signs, people adorning tee-shirts, they held a parade with a lot of support, a town picture was taken, many meetings have been held and alot of praying is being done. We need the Pontiac Prison to remain open. The facts have not proven beyond a reasonable doubt that it should close. Please take the time, with out all of the options and make the right decision. Keep PONTIAC PRISON open.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Jettie Baer". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned at the bottom of the page.

August 6, 2008

Senator Jeff Schoenberg - Co-Chairman
Representative Rich Meyers - Co-Chairman
Commission on Government
Forecasting and Accountability
703 Stratton Office Building
Springfield, IL 62706

Dear Senator Schoenberg and Representative Meyers:

Please re-consider this issue of closing Pontiac Prison. By now you have seen a lot of effort go into trying to make this not happen. The area towns surrounding the prison have taken many steps to show their support to keeping the prison open. The towns have signs, people adorning tee-shirts, they held a parade with a lot of support, a town picture was taken, many meetings have been held and a lot of praying is being done. We need the Pontiac Prison to remain open. The facts have not proven beyond a reasonable doubt that it should close. Please take the time, without all of the options and make the right decision. Keep PONTIAC PRISON open.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Daniel A. Howell".

August 6, 2008

Senator Jeff Schoenberg - Co-Chairman
Representative Rich Meyers - Co-Chairman
Commission on Government
Forecasting and Accountability
703 Stratton Office Building
Springfield, Il 62706

Dear Senator Schoenberg and Representative Meyers:

Please re-consider this issue of closing Pontiac Prison. By now you have seen a lot of effort go into trying to make this not happen. The area towns surrounding the prison have taken many steps to show their support to keeping the prison open. The towns have signs, people adorning tee-shirts, they held a parade with a lot of support, a town picture was taken, many meetings have been held and alot of praying is being done. We need the Pontiac Prison to remain open. The facts have not proven beyond a reasonable doubt that it should close. Please take the time, with out all of the options and make the right decision. Keep PONTIAC PRISON open.

Sincerely,

Clarice Beckett

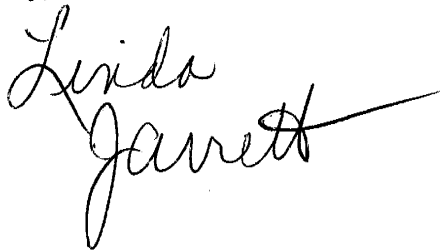
August 6, 2008

Senator Jeff Schoenberg - Co-Chairman
Representative Rich Meyers - Co-Chairman
Commission on Government
Forecasting and Accountability
703 Stratton Office Building
Springfield, IL 62706

Dear Senator Schoenberg and Representative Meyers:

Please re-consider this issue of closing Pontiac Prison. By now you have seen a lot of effort go into trying to make this not happen. The area towns surrounding the prison have taken many steps to show their support to keeping the prison open. The towns have signs, people adorning tee-shirts, they held a parade with a lot of support, a town picture was taken, many meetings have been held and a lot of praying is being done. We need the Pontiac Prison to remain open. The facts have not proven beyond a reasonable doubt that it should close. Please take the time, without all of the options and make the right decision. Keep PONTIAC PRISON open.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Linda Garrett". The signature is written in black ink and includes a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

August 6, 2008

Senator Jeff Schoenberg - Co-Chairman
Representative Rich Meyers - Co-Chairman
Commission on Government
Forecasting and Accountability
703 Stratton Office Building
Springfield, Il 62706

Dear Senator Schoenberg and Representative Meyers:

Please re-consider this issue of closing Pontiac Prison. By now you have seen a lot of effort go into trying to make this not happen. The area towns surrounding the prison have taken many steps to show their support to keeping the prison open. The towns have signs, people adorning tee-shirts, they held a parade with a lot of support, a town picture was taken, many meetings have been held and alot of praying is being done. We need the Pontiac Prison to remain open. The facts have not proven beyond a reasonable doubt that it should close. Please take the time, with out all of the options and make the right decision. Keep PONTIAC PRISON open.

Sincerely,

Robert W. McGowan

Kapp, Lynnae

From: brian bend [bend4@mchsi.com]
Sent: Saturday, August 23, 2008 3:01 PM
To: webmastercgfa
Subject: support PCC

I support keeping the Pontiac Correctional Center open.

You have heard the positives of PCC, location with 55, Amtrak, the trained staff located in the area, the cash flow of the economy.

What I understand the projected savings is projected paper thin. Hard to say if the savings will be ,if any, with the location of Thomson is so close to Iowa (tax revenue).

I am concern with the governor saying at the state fair "he does not want to close PCC, saying Rutherford needs to release the money"

what is that about?

How will history remember this?

Livingston county is only a few county in the USA that the population in 1900 was greater than 2000 census. Closing PPC will be a huge negative impact.

The mental stress for PCC guards, the families. Kids take it granted so often the parents will provide for them as the grow up. They also have the feeling helplessness and uncertainty.

These guards put their lives on the line each day they go to work.

We need to slow this down, take a deep breath, and do this carefully,

Sincerely,

Brian Bend

REGARDING: CLOSING PONTIAC CORRECTIONAL CENTER

As registered voters and citizens who try to keep informed of the issues, we would like to express our concerns over the proposed closing of the Pontiac Correctional Center.

Years ago, when the state was looking for a site to build a new prison, the city of Pontiac wanted the prison to be built on land the State of Illinois already owned just south of the present day prison. However, the powers that be chose another site. Now, as inconceivable as it sounds, the state is considering closing Pontiac altogether -- at a time when there is already a problem with overcrowding in our prison system. If a place must be closed, the closing of the Roundhouse at Stateville would be (for the lack of a better phrase) a feasible economic choice. With the development and growth going on in the Joliet area, this part of the state could absorb the loss much easier than the rural community of Pontiac.

Livingston County and the city of Pontiac has not seen any significant growth in either economics or population in decades. How will the closure of Pontiac Correctional Center affect Pontiac? For one, our schools will lose the tax revenue needed to keep our schools at the level needed to prepare our students for their future. As our home values decrease (who wants to live in a town that has lost it's second largest employer?), our taxes will increase to help cover the cost of services in a county that is fourth in size and presently has a population of around 39,000 people.

Closing the prison would mean families being uprooted, (good luck in trying to sell your house!) kids would be removed from schools and friends. The biggest economic factor would be that most businesses (if not all) would suffer great losses. Some businesses will close and others will have to make some major adjustments like ordering inventory, the products and services now offered would have to be paired back, and loss of employment due to downsizing. Pontiac is the hub for employment for all of Livingston County. The prison's closing will not just effect Pontiac, but every little town and village in the entire county.

What does the state plan to do with the building and grounds once the prison closes? It will just be a matter of time before the site becomes an eye

sore! What happens to all the homes within the prison's vicinity? Who will buy a house that is located next to a huge abandoned configuration of buildings overrun with weeds? And please don't bother telling me that there is money set aside in the budget to take care of mowing and upkeep because we are all well aware of how well the budget works, or more aptly DOESN'T work!

How well prepared is the Thomson area when it comes to handling the problems a prison may bring to their area? Pontiac has the Illinois State Police Headquarters adjacent to the present prison property. The prison's location in Pontiac was one of the reasons that Pontiac has the headquarters located here. We also have a National Guard unit right here in Pontiac in case of trouble. How close is the nearest guard unit to Thomson? How long would it take for them to respond? Is the Thomson Center equipped to handle death row inmates? Where is the nearest hospital to the Thomson Center? Pontiac has a hospital within a few miles of the prison with a staff that is experienced in dealing with prisoners as patients. We also have a trained fire and rescue team that are experienced and knows the protocol involved with working within the prison atmosphere.

Does Thomson have the manpower to hire guards if not all of Pontiac's guards are willing to transfer there? If not, how much will it cost the State of Illinois to train new guards; and, do we WANT that many "new" guards with a bunch of seasoned and savvy inmates?

Where are all the new prison employees going to live? We understand housing in Thomson is limited -- how many prison guards can afford to build a new house on the salary they earn? The quad cities are close by, but that also means the possible loss of revenue to Illinois for those transferred guards to choose to live and shop in Iowa. At least here in Pontiac we don't have to worry about the workers living out of state and commuting to their jobs at P.C.C.

And, finally, what about the inmates and their families? How easy is it going to be for a mother or wife coming from the inner city to visit a son or husband? At least in Pontiac we have access to I-55, a direct route to and from Chicago, and we also have train and bus service going both ways.

We are proud to call Pontiac our home. The people of Pontiac have

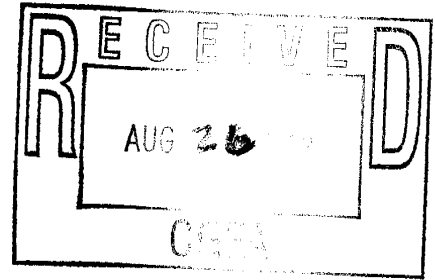
lived in peace (for the most part) with the correctional center for decades. Pontiac has been the recipient of many Governor Home Town Awards thanks to the fine citizens of our community that includes employees of the Pontiac Correctional Center.

So what is the problem? As far as we can tell, there is no problem! Do you know what they say about that?

“If it ain’t broke, don’t try to fix it!”

(This letter expresses thoughts and comments by many other concerned citizens as well as it’s writers.)

August 20, 2008



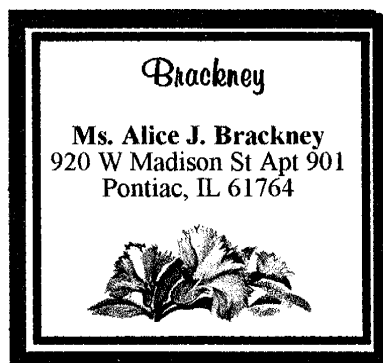
Senator Jeff Schoenberg, Co-Chairman
Representative Rich Myers, Co-Chairman
Commission on Government
Forecasting and Accountability
703 Stratton Office Building
Springfield, IL 62706

Dear Gentlemen:

*Pls Vote to keep Pontiac Prison
Open*

Sincerely,

Alice Brackney





The Pantagraph/CARLOS T. MIRANDA

Pontiac residents pack the auditorium, common area and gymnasium Wednesday evening at Pontiac Township High School. The state of Illinois Commission on Government Forecasting and Accountability held a state facility closure act hearing.

With prison in limbo, developers pull plug

By Tony Sapochetti

tsapochetti@pantagraph.com

PONTIAC — A multimillion-dollar project has pulled out from developing in Pontiac.

In testimony Wednesday during a public hearing on the proposed closing of Pontiac Correctional Center, Mayor Scott McCoy said the developers pulled out because of the possibility of the prison's closing.

The project, under private discussion for a year, would have brought a hotel, home improvement warehouse, conference center and restaurant, McCoy said.

"I pitched the idea of coming to Pontiac and developing in our commercial area at Route 116 and Interstate 55," McCoy said. "They were very interested and we began working together ... in an effort to partner together to bring a large commercial development project to Pontiac."

EM Properties Ltd. of East Peoria has developed retail strips, office buildings, restaurants and hotels.

"The prison closing wasn't the only hurdle, but that pretty much iced it for us," EM Properties President Gary Matthews said Thursday. "Mainly, because it's a bit of a stretch to come up with a site like that with a community

that could lose so many jobs."

Matthews said two other factors also played a part: a land owner increased his price and some council members were reluctant about tax incentive plans.

EM wanted to develop land just east of Interstate 55 and behind Exact Packaging Inc.

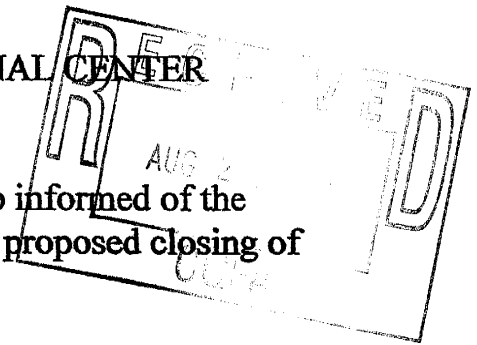
"The (prison) announcement alone was the straw that broke the camel's back," McCoy said. "What's hard to think about are the long hours of work that I, the city staff, and the city council put into this project in hopes of growth for our wonderful community. What's more difficult to swallow is what Pontiac has now lost."

McCoy said the project would have spanned more than 100 acres over 10 to 20 years and brought in \$10 million to \$12 million in development work and construction for its first phase. The development could have provided hundreds of full-time and part-time jobs, he said.

Although EM Properties is not looking to develop on the site now, but Matthews said that could change.

"I wouldn't say that the site has a lot of potential, but it does have potential," he said. "There is good exposure and good accessibility ... and we would certainly revisit it if those conditions are changed."

REGARDING: CLOSING PONTIAC CORRECTIONAL CENTER



As registered voters and citizens who try to keep informed of the issues, we would like to express our concerns over the proposed closing of the Pontiac Correctional Center.

Years ago, when the state was looking for a site to build a new prison, the city of Pontiac wanted the prison to be built on land the State of Illinois already owned just south of the present day prison. However, the powers that be chose another site. Now, as inconceivable as it sounds, the state is considering closing Pontiac altogether -- at a time when there is already a problem with overcrowding in our prison system. If a place must be closed, the closing of the Roundhouse at Stateville would be (for the lack of a better phrase) a feasible economic choice. With the development and growth going on in the Joliet area, this part of the state could absorb the loss much easier than the rural community of Pontiac.

Livingston County and the city of Pontiac has not seen any significant growth in either economics or population in decades. How will the closure of Pontiac Correctional Center affect Pontiac? For one, our schools will lose the tax revenue needed to keep our schools at the level needed to prepare our students for their future. As our home values decrease (who wants to live in a town that has lost it's second largest employer?), our taxes will increase to help cover the cost of services in a county that is fourth in size and presently has a population of around 39,000 people.

Closing the prison would mean families being uprooted, (good luck in trying to sell your house!) kids would be removed from schools and friends. The biggest economic factor would be that most businesses (if not all) would suffer great losses. Some businesses will close and others will have to make some major adjustments like ordering inventory, the products and services now offered would have to be paired back, and loss of employment due to downsizing. Pontiac is the hub for employment for all of Livingston County. The prison's closing will not just effect Pontiac, but every little town and village in the entire county.

What does the state plan to do with the building and grounds once the prison closes? It will just be a matter of time before the site becomes an eye

sore! What happens to all the homes within the prison's vicinity? Who will buy a house that is located next to a huge abandoned configuration of buildings overrun with weeds? And please don't bother telling me that there is money set aside in the budget to take care of mowing and upkeep because we are all well aware of how well the budget works, or more aptly DOESN'T work!

How well prepared is the Thomson area when it comes to handling the problems a prison may bring to their area? Pontiac has the Illinois State Police Headquarters adjacent to the present prison property. The prison's location in Pontiac was one of the reasons that Pontiac has the headquarters located here. We also have a National Guard unit right here in Pontiac in case of trouble. How close is the nearest guard unit to Thomson? How long would it take for them to respond? Is the Thomson Center equipped to handle death row inmates? Where is the nearest hospital to the Thomson Center? Pontiac has a hospital within a few miles of the prison with a staff that is experienced in dealing with prisoners as patients. We also have a trained fire and rescue team that are experienced and knows the protocol involved with working within the prison atmosphere.

Does Thomson have the manpower to hire guards if not all of Pontiac's guards are willing to transfer there? If not, how much will it cost the State of Illinois to train new guards; and, do we WANT that many "new" guards with a bunch of seasoned and savvy inmates?

Where are all the new prison employees going to live? We understand housing in Thomson is limited -- how many prison guards can afford to build a new house on the salary they earn? The quad cities are close by, but that also means the possible loss of revenue to Illinois for those transferred guards to choose to live and shop in Iowa. At least here in Pontiac we don't have to worry about the workers living out of state and commuting to their jobs at P.C.C.

And, finally, what about the inmates and their families? How easy is it going to be for a mother or wife coming from the inner city to visit a son or husband? At least in Pontiac we have access to I-55, a direct route to and from Chicago, and we also have train and bus service going both ways.

We are proud to call Pontiac our home. The people of Pontiac have

lived in peace (for the most part) with the correctional center for decades. Pontiac has been the recipient of many Governor Home Town Awards thanks to the fine citizens of our community that includes employees of the Pontiac Correctional Center.

So what is the problem? As far as we can tell, there is no problem! Do you know what they say about that?

“If it ain’t broke, don’t try to fix it!”

(This letter expresses thoughts and comments by many other concerned citizens as well as it’s writers.)



The Pantagraph/CARLOS T. MIRANDA

Pontiac residents pack the auditorium, common area and gymnasium Wednesday evening at Pontiac Township High School. The state of Illinois Commission on Government Forecasting and Accountability held a state facility closure act hearing.

With prison in limbo, developers pull plug

By Tony Sapochetti

tsapochetti@pantagraph.com

PONTIAC — A multimillion-dollar project has pulled out from developing in Pontiac.

In testimony Wednesday during a public hearing on the proposed closing of Pontiac Correctional Center, Mayor Scott McCoy said the developers pulled out because of the possibility of the prison's closing.

The project, under private discussion for a year, would have brought a hotel, home improvement warehouse, conference center and restaurant, McCoy said.

"I pitched the idea of coming to Pontiac and developing in our commercial area at Route 116 and Interstate 55," McCoy said. "They were very interested and we began working together ... in an effort to partner together to bring a large commercial development project to Pontiac."

EM Properties Ltd. of East Peoria has developed retail strips, office buildings, restaurants and hotels.

"The prison closing wasn't the only hurdle, but that pretty much iced it for us," EM Properties President Gary Matthews said Thursday. "Mainly, because it's a bit of a stretch to come up with a site like that with a community

that could lose so many jobs."

Matthews said two other factors also played a part: a land owner increased his price and some council members were reluctant about tax incentive plans.

EM wanted to develop land just east of Interstate 55 and behind Exact Packaging Inc.

"The (prison) announcement alone was the straw that broke the camel's back," McCoy said. "What's hard to think about are the long hours of work that I, the city staff, and the city council put into this project in hopes of growth for our wonderful community. What's more difficult to swallow is what Pontiac has now lost."

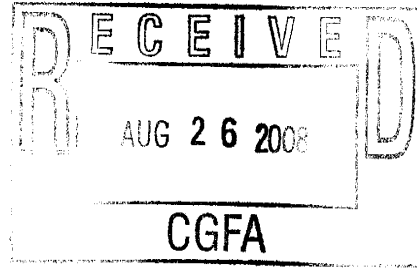
McCoy said the project would have spanned more than 100 acres over 10 to 20 years and brought in \$10 million to \$12 million in development work and construction for its first phase. The development could have provided hundreds of full-time and part-time jobs, he said.

Although EM Properties is not looking to develop on the site now, but Matthews said that could change.

"I wouldn't say that the site has a lot of potential, but it does have potential," he said. "There is good exposure and good accessibility ... and we would certainly revisit it if those conditions are changed."

August 20, 2008

Senator Jeff Schoenberg, Co-Chairman
Representative Rich Myers, Co-Chairman
Commission on Government
Forecasting and Accountability
703 Stratton Office Building
Springfield, IL 62706



Dear Gentlemen:

IN LOOKING AT AN ILLINOIS MAP AND NOT CHECKING
ON THE INTERNET I NOTE THAT:

THOMSON IS A SMALL TOWN AND NOT ON A PRINCIPAL HIGHWAY
ONLY APPROXIMATELY 20 MILES FROM CLINTON, IA.
NEAREST LARGE TOWNS

STERLING - APPROXIMATELY 45 MILES (28 A PRINCIPLE HIGHWAY)
FREEPORT - " 62 " ONLY 8 A " "

CHICAGO TO THOMSON - AS THE CROW FLIES - APPROX. 132 MILES
" " " VIA TOLL ROAD 88 TO STERLING & ON APPROX. 171 MILES

A LARGE PERCENTAGE OF PCC'S POPULATION IS
FROM CHICAGO AND SUBURBS,

PONTIAC IS ON ROUTE 55 ONLY 100 MILES FROM
DOWNTOWN CHICAGO

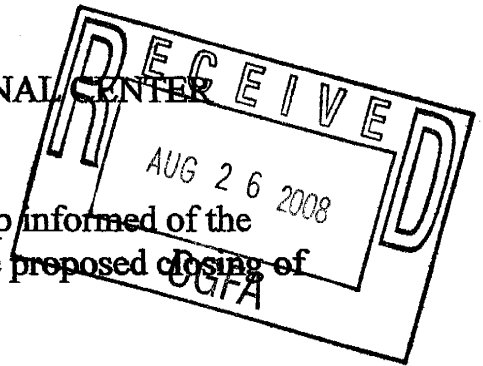
- 31 MILES SOUTH OF R80
- 25 " WEST OF R57 ON R116
- 20 " EAST OF R39 ON R116
- 35 " NORTH OF R74 ON R55

SO YOU CAN SEE, PONTIAC IS CONVENIENT TO ALL OF THE
Sincerely, STATE BY MAJOR
HIGHWAYS, AIRRAIL
AND BUSES.

Dominique Kammernann
104

PONTIAC, IL 61764-9716

REGARDING: CLOSING PONTIAC CORRECTIONAL CENTER



As registered voters and citizens who try to keep informed of the issues, we would like to express our concerns over the proposed closing of the Pontiac Correctional Center.

Years ago, when the state was looking for a site to build a new prison, the city of Pontiac wanted the prison to be built on land the State of Illinois already owned just south of the present day prison. However, the powers that be chose another site. Now, as inconceivable as it sounds, the state is considering closing Pontiac altogether -- at a time when there is already a problem with overcrowding in our prison system. If a place must be closed, the closing of the Roundhouse at Stateville would be (for the lack of a better phrase) a feasible economic choice. With the development and growth going on in the Joliet area, this part of the state could absorb the loss much easier than the rural community of Pontiac.

Livingston County and the city of Pontiac has not seen any significant growth in either economics or population in decades. How will the closure of Pontiac Correctional Center affect Pontiac? For one, our schools will lose the tax revenue needed to keep our schools at the level needed to prepare our students for their future. As our home values decrease (who wants to live in a town that has lost it's second largest employer?), our taxes will increase to help cover the cost of services in a county that is fourth in size and presently has a population of around 39,000 people.

Closing the prison would mean families being uprooted, (good luck in trying to sell your house!) kids would be removed from schools and friends. The biggest economic factor would be that most businesses (if not all) would suffer great losses. Some businesses will close and others will have to make some major adjustments like ordering inventory, the products and services now offered would have to be paired back, and loss of employment due to downsizing. Pontiac is the hub for employment for all of Livingston County. The prison's closing will not just effect Pontiac, but every little town and village in the entire county.

What does the state plan to do with the building and grounds once the prison closes? It will just be a matter of time before the site becomes an eye

sore! What happens to all the homes within the prison's vicinity? Who will buy a house that is located next to a huge abandoned configuration of buildings overrun with weeds? And please don't bother telling me that there is money set aside in the budget to take care of mowing and upkeep because we are all well aware of how well the budget works, or more aptly DOESN'T work!

How well prepared is the Thomson area when it comes to handling the problems a prison may bring to their area? Pontiac has the Illinois State Police Headquarters adjacent to the present prison property. The prison's location in Pontiac was one of the reasons that Pontiac has the headquarters located here. We also have a National Guard unit right here in Pontiac in case of trouble. How close is the nearest guard unit to Thomson? How long would it take for them to respond? Is the Thomson Center equipped to handle death row inmates? Where is the nearest hospital to the Thomson Center? Pontiac has a hospital within a few miles of the prison with a staff that is experienced in dealing with prisoners as patients. We also have a trained fire and rescue team that are experienced and knows the protocol involved with working within the prison atmosphere.

Does Thomson have the manpower to hire guards if not all of Pontiac's guards are willing to transfer there? If not, how much will it cost the State of Illinois to train new guards; and, do we WANT that many "new" guards with a bunch of seasoned and savvy inmates?

Where are all the new prison employees going to live? We understand housing in Thomson is limited -- how many prison guards can afford to build a new house on the salary they earn? The quad cities are close by, but that also means the possible loss of revenue to Illinois for those transferred guards to choose to live and shop in Iowa. At least here in Pontiac we don't have to worry about the workers living out of state and commuting to their jobs at P.C.C.

And, finally, what about the inmates and their families? How easy is it going to be for a mother or wife coming from the inner city to visit a son or husband? At least in Pontiac we have access to I-55, a direct route to and from Chicago, and we also have train and bus service going both ways.

We are proud to call Pontiac our home. The people of Pontiac have

lived in peace (for the most part) with the correctional center for decades. Pontiac has been the recipient of many Governor Home Town Awards thanks to the fine citizens of our community that includes employees of the Pontiac Correctional Center.

So what is the problem? As far as we can tell, there is no problem! Do you know what they say about that?

“If it ain’t broke, don’t try to fix it!”

(This letter expresses thoughts and comments by many other concerned citizens as well as it’s writers.)



The Pantagraph/CARLOS T. MIRANDA

Pontiac residents pack the auditorium, common area and gymnasium Wednesday evening at Pontiac Township High School. The state of Illinois Commission on Government Forecasting and Accountability held a state facility closure act hearing.

With prison in limbo, developers pull plug

By Tony Sapochetti

tsapochetti@pantagraph.com

PONTIAC — A multimillion-dollar project has pulled out from developing in Pontiac.

In testimony Wednesday during a public hearing on the proposed closing of Pontiac Correctional Center, Mayor Scott McCoy said the developers pulled out because of the possibility of the prison's closing.

The project, under private discussion for a year, would have brought a hotel, home improvement warehouse, conference center and restaurant, McCoy said.

"I pitched the idea of coming to Pontiac and developing in our commercial area at Route 116 and Interstate 55," McCoy said. "They were very interested and we began working together ... in an effort to partner together to bring a large commercial development project to Pontiac."

EM Properties Ltd. of East Peoria has developed retail strips, office buildings, restaurants and hotels.

"The prison closing wasn't the only hurdle, but that pretty much iced it for us," EM Properties President Gary Matthews said Thursday. "Mainly, because it's a bit of a stretch to come up with a site like that with a community

that could lose so many jobs."

Matthews said two other factors also played a part: a land owner increased his price and some council members were reluctant about tax incentive plans.

EM wanted to develop land just east of Interstate 55 and behind Exact Packaging Inc.

"The (prison) announcement alone was the straw that broke the camel's back," McCoy said. "What's hard to think about are the long hours of work that I, the city staff, and the city council put into this project in hopes of growth for our wonderful community. What's more difficult to swallow is what Pontiac has now lost."

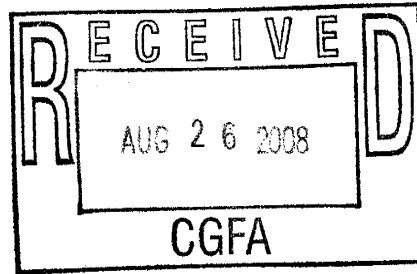
McCoy said the project would have spanned more than 100 acres over 10 to 20 years and brought in \$10 million to \$12 million in development work and construction for its first phase. The development could have provided hundreds of full-time and part-time jobs, he said.

Although EM Properties is not looking to develop on the site now, but Matthews said that could change.

"I wouldn't say that the site has a lot of potential, but it does have potential," he said. "There is good exposure and good accessibility ... and we would certainly revisit it if those conditions are changed."

August 20, 2008

Senator Jeff Schoenberg, Co-Chairman
Representative Rich Myers, Co-Chairman
Commission on Government
Forecasting and Accountability
703 Stratton Office Building
Springfield, IL 62706



Dear Gentlemen:

Keep
PRISON
OPEN

Sincerely,

Margaret Turner

Kapp, Lynnae

From: raceway38@mchsi.com
Sent: Monday, August 25, 2008 8:37 PM
To: webmastercgfa
Cc: local494@fcg.net
Subject: Clarification

To: CGFA

August 25, 2008

My name is Gary Barnes, and I gave testimonies at the Pontiac hearing.
To the 500 Reclassification Form that have been printed at Pontiac Correctional Center, to reclassify the violent offender there.

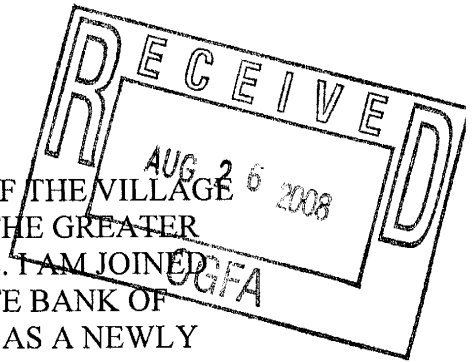
To clarify, to what I meant about Reclassification of These Violent Offender is:

The Forms that were printed, are for Segregation time Cuts. They are reviewing all of the Offenders in the Segregation Units, and giving them time cuts as they deem fit. En order to releasing these violent offenders early form Seg. Status. This way they can be sent to other Medium/Maximum Institutions that don't have the room for Seg Status Offenders. So they can be put in general population along with less violent offenders. This could cause, a potentially higher rick factor the these institutions.

Sincerely
Gary Barnes

THANK YOU FOR THIS OPPORTUNITY TO ADDRESS YOU.

I AM KEVIN MCNAMARA, THE VILLAGE ADMINISTRATOR OF THE VILLAGE OF DWIGHT TODAY I AM HERE AS A REPRESENTATIVE OF THE GREATER LIVINGSTON COUNTY ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COUNCIL. I AM JOINED TODAY BY BOARD MEMBERS RON MINNAERT OF THE STATE BANK OF GRAYMONT AND SCOTT BAUKNECHT OF FREESTAR BANK. AS A NEWLY REVIVED ORGANIZATION IN LIVINGSTON COUNTY OUR GOAL IS TO PROMOTE AND PROVIDE MEANINGFUL ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT IN THE COUNTY, IN ADDITION TO RETAINING THE CURRENT BUSINESSES AND JOBS WE CURRENTLY HAVE.



THE CLOSING OF THE PONTIAC CORRECTIONAL CENTER WILL RESULT IN SUBSTANTIAL NEGATIVE ECONOMIC IMPACTS TO LIVINGSTON COUNTY AND THE ENTIRE REGION. IT WILL HAVE A DEVASTATING IMPACT ON EVERY ASPECT OF THE COMMUNITY. THE POPULATION OF LIVINGSTON COUNTY IS ONLY 39,678, OF WHICH ROUGHLY 2,700 OF THOSE PEOPLE ARE RESIDENTS OF THE PONTIAC AND DWIGHT CORRECTIONAL CENTERS.

OVER THE PAST TWENTY YEARS OUR GROWTH, BOTH POPULATION-WISE AND ECONOMICALLY, HAS BEEN STAGNANT IN OUR COUNTY. EVEN THOUGH FOR THE SIZE OF THE COUNTY WE CONSIDER OURSELVES TO BE FORTUNATE TO HAVE A DIVERSE EMPLOYMENT BASE, THE PONTIAC CORRECTIONAL CENTER IS ONE OF THE TOP EMPLOYERS IN THE COUNTY AND AREA.

ACCORDING TO THE ANALYSIS COMMISSIONED BY THE RURAL ECONOMIC TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE CENTER, 'LIVINGSTON COUNTY IS THE COUNTY OF RESIDENCE OF 50% OR 284' OF THE PONTIAC FACILITY'S EMPLOYEES, WHILE ANOTHER 182 PCC EMPLOYEES LIVE IN THE NEARBY THREE COUNTY, MCLEAN, WOODFORD, LASALLE REGION, AND AN ADDITIONAL 103 EMPLOYEES COMMUTE FROM THE LARGER 11 COUNTY REGION. THE CLOSURE OF PONTIAC WILL BE FELT THROUGHOUT THIS ENTIRE 15 COUNTY REGION OF CENTRAL ILLINOIS. THE UNEMPLOYMENT RATES ARE ALREADY RISING IN THIS AREA, AND THE PRISON IS STILL OPEN.

THE 284 LIVINGSTON COUNTY EMPLOYEES HAVE ANNUAL EARNINGS OF \$24.3 MILLION DOLLARS WHICH TRANSLATES INTO SPENDABLE INCOME OF \$18.2 MILLION DOLLARS---AND THAT IS JUST FOR THE 284 LIVINGSTON COUNTY EMPLOYEES.

IN ADDITION TO THE DEVASTATING EFFECT THE CLOSURE OF THE PONTIAC CORRECTIONAL CENTER WOULD HAVE ON THE CITY OF PONTIAC, THE COUNTY OF LIVINGSTON AND THE ENTIRE NORTH CENTRAL

ILLINOIS REGION, THE ASSOCIATED ECONOMIC IMPACT TO OUR OTHER BUSINESSES WOULD ALSO BE PROFOUND.

AS A FORMER SMALL BUSINESS OWNER I CAN TELL YOU THAT IN THIS AREA, AND ON MAIN STREET AMERICA, THE LOSS OF JUST ONE CUSTOMER HURTS AND AFFECTS THE STABILITY OF THE BUSINESS.

THE RELATED LOSSES ASSOCIATED WITH THE CLOSURE COULD RESULT IN THE LOSS OF AN ADDITIONAL 214 JOBS IN THE COUNTY AT OTHER BUSINESSES. IN A COUNTY THIS SIZE, THIS SMALL, EVERYONE, EVERY PERSON, EVERY BUSINESS, IN THE ENTIRE COUNTY WILL BE NEGATIVELY IMPACTED. AS REP. MAUTINO STATED, THE "ADDED UNEMPLOYMENT IN THIS AREA WILL DESTROY FAMILIES."

WITH THE CURRENT STATE OF THE NATIONAL ECONOMY AND IN PARTICULAR THE ILLINOIS ECONOMY, THE LAST THING THE STATE OF ILLINOIS SHOULD BE DOING IS EXACERBATING THE PROBLEM. IN ADDITION, IT MAKES NO ECONOMIC SENSE TO UPLIFT THE ECONOMIC HEALTH OF ONE REGION OF THE STATE AT THE EXPENSE OF ANOTHER.

THE LOSS OF THE DISPOSABLE OR SPENDABLE INCOME OF THE PONTIAC CORRECTIONAL CENTER EMPLOYEES WHO WILL LEAVE THIS AREA, ALONG WITH THOSE WHO REMAIN AND WILL BE LOOKING FOR WORK WILL AFFECT EVERY ASPECT OF LIFE IN LIVINGSTON COUNTY.

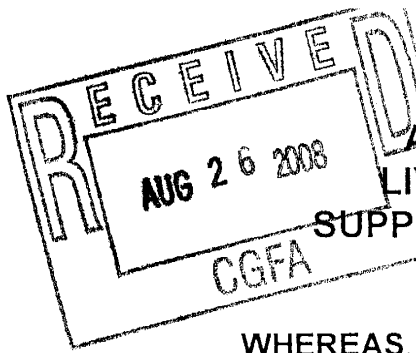
IF THIS CLOSURE PROCEEDS, EVERY BUSINESS IN THE ENTIRE COUNTY, EVERY SCHOOL DISTRICT IN THE ENTIRE COUNTY, EVERY PERSON IN THE ENTIRE COUNTY, BE THEY IN PONTIAC, OR FAIRBURY, DWIGHT OR FLANAGAN WILL BE ADVERSLY AFFECTED.

THE CONSEQUENCES OF CLOSING THE PONTIAC CORRECTIONAL CENTER WILL EXTEND FAR INTO THE FUTURE FOR THE ECONOMIC HEALTH AND VITALITY OF LIVINGSTON COUNTY AND OUR REGION. ECONOMICALLY, IT WILL TAKE MANY YEARS FOR US TO RECOVER.

I WOULD URGE YOU TO CONSIDER ALL OF THE NEGATIVE CONSEQUENCES THAT CLOSURE OF THE PONTIAC CORRECTIONAL CENTER WOULD INCUR.

I URGE YOU AND THE GOVERNOR ALSO THAT IF YOU DO RECOMMEND CLOSURE TO ALSO STRONGLY RECOMMEND A LONG TERM ECONOMIC STIMULUS PACKAGE FOR LIVINGSTON COUNTY AND THIS AREA OF NORTH CENTRAL ILLINOIS.

THANK YOU FOR YOUR TIME AND CONSIDERATION.



**A RESOLUTION BY THE VILLAGE OF DWIGHT
LIVINGSTON AND GRUNDY COUNTIES, ILLINOIS
SUPPORTING THE CONTINUATION OF THE OPERATION
OF THE PONTIAC CORRECTIONAL CENTER**

WHEREAS, Governor Blagojevich and the Illinois Department of Corrections have announced the closure of the Pontiac Correctional Center in Pontiac, Illinois; and

WHEREAS, the Pontiac Correctional Center has been an integral part of the Illinois Correction System for many years; and

WHEREAS, the Illinois Correctional System is extremely over capacity, resulting in unsafe conditions, and the closure of Pontiac Correctional Center does nothing to reduce this overcrowding; and

WHEREAS, over the past several years the State of Illinois has committed substantial resources to Pontiac Correctional Center to upgrade the facility; and

WHEREAS, the Pontiac Correctional Center is an integral part of Dwight's, Livingston County's and Central Illinois' economy by providing 600 jobs and the purchase of goods and services from numerous area businesses; and

WHEREAS, the closure of Pontiac Correctional Center would have a significant impact on hundreds of employees and their families, relocation away from their home communities or loss of employment, creating a destructive effect on their families and their future; and

WHEREAS, the financial impact on area counties, municipalities, schools and other valuable institutions would be devastating,

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Village of Dwight joins with other communities, counties, governmental bodies and interested persons and organizations in urging all efforts be made to maintain full operation of the Pontiac Correctional Center, and that steps be taken to develop a long-term plan for all correctional facilities so that host communities and employees do not need to experience the uncertainty of future potential closures.

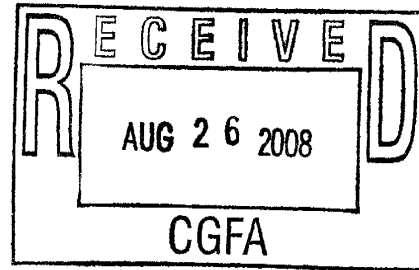
Passed and approved this 23rd day of June, 2008 by the Dwight Village Board of Trustees, Livingston and Grundy Counties, Illinois.

JAMES L. MIXEN, VILLAGE PRESIDENT

(seal)

attest:
Patricia E. Drechsel, Village Clerk

Senator Jeff Schoenberg Co-Chairman
Representative Rich Myers Co-Chairman
Commission on Government
Forecasting and Accountability
703 Stratton Office Building
Springfield, IL.62706



August 23, 2008

Dear Senator Schoenberg and Representative Myers:

I am an Educator at the Pontiac Correctional Center (PCC). Closing PCC would cause my wife and I to have to relocate. That would cause my wife to give up her job. I am sure wherever we were to move to, she would not make the hourly wage she makes now, have the same shift hours and days off, and she would loose her thirteen years of seniority with her current local small business employer.

At the COGFA hearing at the Pontiac H.S. last Wednesday night, I did not hear the following points emphasized:

- 1) That the moving of PCC inmates would also result in an additional loss of approximately 1,600 residents from the city of Pontiac and the county of Livingston, as the inmates are included in the census, for which various grants are based upon, that go to the city and county.
- 2) In the costs to the state of Illinois not included in the cost report, the cost of transporting inmates on writs from Pontiac to Chicago and the collar counties verses Thompson to Chicago and the collar counties.
- 3) Where the "Death Row" inmates, severe "Mental Health" inmates, and the "Protective Custody" inmates, now housed at PCC, will be relocated.

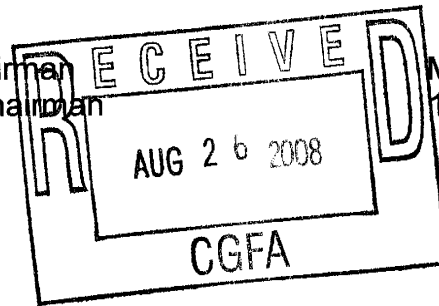
Sincerely,

Allen Mitchell
202E. Charles St.
Bourbonnais, IL. 60914
815-932-6995

C.C. State Senator Dan Rutherford
State Senator Gary Dahl
State Representative Careen Gordon

Senator Jeff Schoenberg Co-Chairman
Representative Rich Myers Co-Chairman
Commission on Government

Forecasting and Accountability
703 Stratton Office Building
Springfield, Il. 62706



Mark Osman
17171 Billet Rd
Pontiac, Il. 61764

815-842-2720

8/22/2008

Dear Sirs:

I feel compelled to write expressing my extreme outrage regarding the proposed closing of the Pontiac Correctional Center. I attended the public hearing at Pontiac Twp. High School yesterday (8/20/08) and I was absolutely disgusted by the complete lack of consideration being given by The Department of Corrections officials and apparently the Governor of our state as well. They must feel that because we are residents of small towns that we are utterly stupid and cannot add, subtract, read, write or think clearly.

On the contrary, I believe that a return to basic math is in order for them. They also may want to consider boning up on "playing well with others." Their own figures clearly show the DOC will lose money by closing Pontiac over closing Stateville as was originally proposed. That the legislature budgeted money to fully fund PCC for the fiscal year and by financial slight of hand DOC can unilaterally move money around to do something which our elected representatives did not desire defies my imagination.

The DOC Director was underwhelmingly convincing when he was asked directly as to whether our Governor had put forth the plan to change the closed institution from Stateville to Pontiac. After stammering, stuttering and doing everything he could possibly do, except say "Yes" or "No", the answer was absolutely clear to every person in attendance. I am now quite certain that a complete change of leadership in the state and the DOC is necessary. Whether one agrees or disagrees with this issue, a direct, clear answer is due the citizens from their employees.

This letter is also about what is happening in the City of Pontiac and surrounding areas. At the public hearing a number of people spoke as to their own circumstances. Not one single person said they would be better off if PCC closes. Without exception, the predictions were of financial calamity, ruined lives, an entire region of our state devastated, and for no good reason.

My own experience should suffice as an example. I am a car salesperson at Lynn Chevrolet-Buick Inc. in Pontiac. As such I deal in selling high dollar items, which is hard enough to do in normal times. With the proposed PCC closure it is nearly an impossibility. From May 1, 2008 until today (8/22/08) my business is down 20%. We are not even getting customers coming into our showroom to look. Only 1 person employed at PCC has purchased a car from our dealership in over 3 months, and that was a necessity due to a total out accident.

What this has meant to me personally is that some needed home

improvement work has been put off. That also means a building contractor is missing several thousands of dollars in work, because I can't afford to hire the work done. I also am worried about having enough money to pay the second installment of my property taxes, due in about 3 weeks. What happens if I can't pay them. The same state that denies me the ability to make a living now comes along and takes my house for non-payment of taxes. I would try and sell the house and get a less expensive one, but how can I do that in today's depressed market. Complicated by the fact that there will be many more houses for sale than possible buyers, selling will be an impossibility.

Should I lose my job, I will take advantage of all the unemployment benefits which I qualify for, thus becoming a drain of the state's economy instead of the contributor I have been for the last 27 years. Factor my situation by several thousand to represent what will happen around the area to others. Any possible benefit to the state's budget goes right down the tubes. Also, if it is at all possible, at the earliest moment I can I will leave Illinois for greener pastures, taking my wife with me. As a DOC retiree she will take the state's pension money to another state and spend it there. This thing has a way of mushrooming, doesn't it.

None of this needs to happen. I like my job, I like Pontiac I want to stay here. So do the employees of PCC. Together we have built one of the finest rural communities in the nation and to see it torn apart for no reason is truly a crying shame. Please make your recommendation to keep the Pontiac Correctional Center open.

Sincerely,



Mark Osman

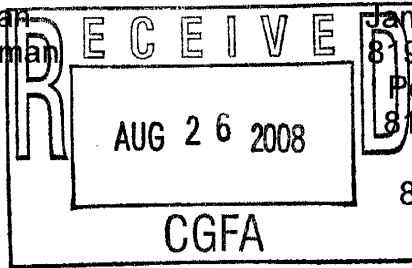


CHEVROLET BUICK CHEVY TRUCKS
"WHERE SERVICE MAKES FRIENDS"
LYNN
CHEVROLET - BUICK, INC.
PONTIAC, IL
I-55 & ROUTE 116 • P.O. Box 648
Pontiac, IL 61764

Toll Free: (866) 374-3344
Tel: (815) 842-3344
Fax: (815) 842-3766
WWW.LYNNCHEVROLETBUICK.COM
e-mail: lynnrbu@mchsi.com

Mark E. Osman
Transportation/Leasing Consultant

Senator Jeff Schoenberg Co-Chairman
Representative Rich Myers Co-Chairman
Commission on Government
Forecasting and Accountability
703 Stratton Office Building
Springfield, Il. 62706



James M. Legg
819 S. Mill St
Pontiac, Il 61764
815-844-3320
8/22/2008

Dear Sirs:

I am writing to tell you how I feel about the proposed closing of the Pontiac Correctional Center. As a lifelong resident of Pontiac (65 yrs.) and doing business as an automobile salesman for the last 40 years I can tell you what this action has already done to our local economy. I have seen numerous economic downturns through the years, but nothing even close to what has occurred in the last 3 months. The sad thing is that it is only going to get worse if the PCC closes.

I recently reached retirement age, but decided to continue working at a job I love for at least 5 more years, quite possibly longer. However, with this latest turn of events I may have to re-think my future plans and retire in the near future. This will obviously affect my retirement income and future lifestyle. With my income going down, the state will not be getting nearly as much tax revenue from me. While one person won't make a huge dent in the state's revenue, I'm sure I won't be the only person taking this route.

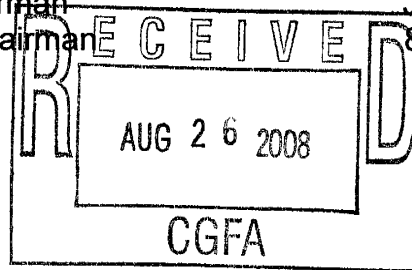
I also will more than likely leave Illinois for another state where property and income taxes are lower. The state of Illinois will lose out completely in that event. I do not want to do any of these things, however if the economy in this area takes the plunge that I anticipate, I will have no choice.

I have always believed that I lived in a society where our elected legislature made decisions. While I have not always agreed with everything that occurred in Springfield, I understand they can't always please everyone. But in this case I understand the legislature appropriated money to keep PCC funded for the current fiscal year and 1 man made the decision to close the institution. I guess our representative form of government is a thing of the past.

Please do all you can to keep the Pontiac Correctional Center open and serving the state of Illinois. You will also restore my faith in our democratic system.

Sincerely,

Senator Jeff Schoenberg Co-Chairman
Representative Rich Myers Co-Chairman
Commission on Government
Forecasting and Accountability
703 Stratton Office Building
Springfield, Il. 62706



James M. Legg
819 S. Mill St
Pontiac, Il 61764
815-844-3320

8/22/2008

Dear Sirs:

I am writing to tell you how I feel about the proposed closing of the Pontiac Correctional Center. As a lifelong resident of Pontiac (65 yrs.) and doing business as an automobile salesman for the last 40 years I can tell you what this action has already done to our local economy. I have seen numerous economic downturns through the years, but nothing even close to what has occurred in the last 3 months. The sad thing is that it is only going to get worse if the PCC closes.

I recently reached retirement age, but decided to continue working at a job I love for at least 5 more years, quite possibly longer. However, with this latest turn of events I may have to re-think my future plans and retire in the near future. This will obviously affect my retirement income and future lifestyle. With my income going down, the state will not be getting nearly as much tax revenue from me. While one person won't make a huge dent in the state's revenue, I'm sure I won't be the only person taking this route.

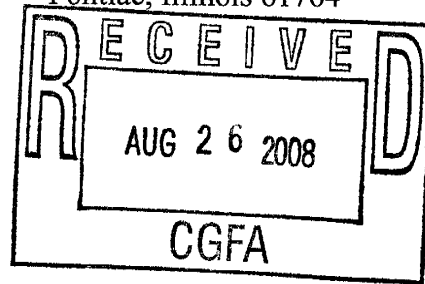
I also will more than likely leave Illinois for another state where property and income taxes are lower. The state of Illinois will lose out completely in that event. I do not want to do any of these things, however if the economy in this area takes the plunge that I anticipate, I will have no choice.

I have always believed that I lived in a society where our elected legislature made decisions. While I have not always agreed with everything that occurred in Springfield, I understand they can't always please everyone. But in this case I understand the legislature appropriated money to keep PCC funded for the current fiscal year and 1 man made the decision to close the institution. I guess our representative form of government is a thing of the past.

Please do all you can to keep the Pontiac Correctional Center open and serving the state of Illinois. You will also restore my faith in our democratic system.

Sincerely,

Terry S. McCoy
405 W. Lowell Avenue
Pontiac, Illinois 61764



August 22, 2008

Senator Jeff Schoenberg, Co-Chairman
Commission on Government
Forecasting and Accountability
703 Stratton Office Building
Springfield, Illinois 62706

Dear Senator Schoenberg:

I attended the Public Hearing concerning the closing of the Pontiac Correctional Center and want to compliment you on the way you conducted this hearing. It was particularly satisfying to see that our Legislators are as frustrated with this situation as the public is.

I live close to the PCC and have another concern that was not discussed at the Hearing. If, God forbid, this insanity is not stopped and the PCC is in fact closed, what will happen to the vacant buildings sitting in the middle of our town?

Is there a plan to maintain these empty buildings (ex. lawn maintenance, continued heating, general upkeep, etc.) so that they do not become "eyesores," reducing everyone's property values?

Have funds been allotted to perform the above maintenance indefinitely, not just for the next year or so?

Or is the plan to demolish all of these buildings and build a State Park?

WHAT IS THE DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTIONS PLAN FOR THIS ABANDONED FACILITY?

Since the Governor's decision to close Pontiac was made so quickly, I suspect there is no plan. I think the Governor and the Department of Corrections owe the public answers to these questions.

Thank you very much for your attention.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Terry S. McCoy".

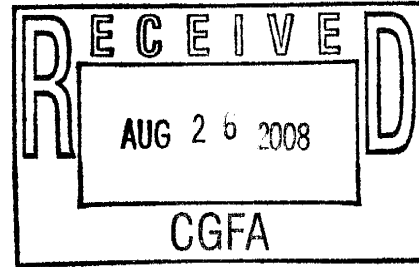
Terry S. McCoy

cc: Senator Dan Rutherford, 320 N. Plum Street, Pontiac, Illinois 61764

Terry S. McCoy
405 W. Lowell Avenue
Pontiac, Illinois 61764

August 22, 2008

Representative Rich Myers, Co-Chairman
Commission on Government
Forecasting and Accountability
703 Stratton Office Building
Springfield, Illinois 62706



Dear Representative Myers:

I attended the Public Hearing concerning the closing of the Pontiac Correctional Center and want to compliment you on the way you conducted this hearing. It was particularly satisfying to see that our Legislators are as frustrated with this situation as the public is.

I live close to the PCC and have another concern that was not discussed at the Hearing. If, God forbid, this insanity is not stopped and the PCC is in fact closed, what will happen to the vacant buildings sitting in the middle of our town?

Is there a plan to maintain these empty buildings (ex. lawn maintenance, continued heating, general upkeep, etc.) so that they do not become "eyesores," reducing everyone's property values?

Have funds been allotted to perform the above maintenance indefinitely, not just for the next year or so?

Or is the plan to demolish all of these buildings and build a State Park?

WHAT IS THE DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTIONS PLAN FOR THIS ABANDONED FACILITY?

Since the Governor's decision to close Pontiac was made so quickly, I suspect there is no plan. I think the Governor and the Department of Corrections owe the public answers to these questions.

Thank you very much for your attention.

Sincerely,

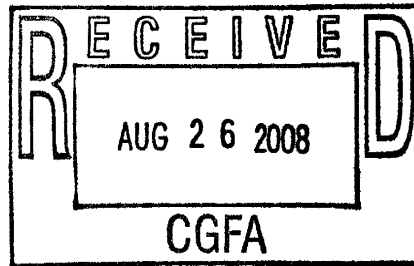
Terry S. McCoy

cc: Senator Dan Rutherford, 320 N. Plum Street, Pontiac, Illinois 61764

Sylvia L. Bashore

44 Redwood Manor
Pontiac, IL 61764

Senator Jeff Schoenberg,
Representative Rich Myers
Commission on Government
Forecasting and Accountability
703 Stratton Building
Springfield, IL 62706



Gentlemen:

I was unable to attend the hearing on Tuesday, however, I did listen to a great part of it on the radio.

First I want to say that I am opposed to the fact that one man has so much power - and politics aside - it just does not seem right or fair that one man - no committee, no group, not the senate or house that the people elect - **one man** has that power.

The prison closing will not affect me financially. I am retired and have retirement income. I live in a mobile home and assessed value and taxes are not affected. My lot rent could increase. If a restaurant closes there is another one, if a beauty salon closes, there will be somebody to cut my hair, there will always be a grocery store.

This is not true of my family. My daughter recently purchased a business that is already feeling the effects of this event. Vacations are being cancelled or postponed. Who can go on a vacation and have a good time with the threat of a job loss looming in the background? Also she and my son both own homes which will see loss of equity.

I feel the depression in the community. This town fought the flood because they could come together and help each other. The town and the entire area are trying to come together to fight this threat but when common sense leaves and a decision of this magnitude gets personal how can you fight it.

A little boy can pick up his marbles and go home - if they still play marbles - and he only hurts himself and his friend. This is so much bigger.

I understand the need for money for education but throwing money at a problem does not always fix it. If the governor goes ahead with his plan to destroy this community - will he take credit for giving a few more dollars to education, and will he take credit for the lives he ruins - the suicides, the domestic violence. the child abuse.

I doubt anybody will ever read this letter but it made me feel better to write it.

Sincerely,

Sylvia L. Bashore

JOAN BULLARD
REALTY
Incorporated
112 W. Tremont
Odell, IL 60460



Thursday, August 21, 2008

Gentlemen,

I thank you so much for well-conducted meeting at Pontiac High School last evening.

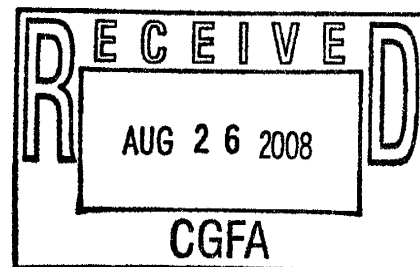
The closing of the Prison will be a disaster to the entire county but especially Pontiac. I sell Real Estate throughout the county but Pontiac and Odell is 90% of my sales. I am 58 years old; I started my business in 2000. I have sold plenty of houses to folks that work at the prison. Right now these peoples lives are on hold along with everyone else in our communities. I do not know what this will do to my business. I am sure I will do at least less than 50% of what I do now. If that is the case I will close my office because I can't pay the overhead. My children and grandchildren all live in the area and it will affect them and my relationship with them. Fortunately I will be better off than most and my plea is for my children, grandchildren and the community. Just think of the dollars and cents and it doesn't make sense. Our Governor is doing this for personal reasons and for 1 man to have that much power is wrong. When this is over good bad in between I will be one of the first people in the state of Illinois to make sure that a panel such as yours makes that decision not back to one man or woman. Thank goodness we have COCFA or our state would be ruined for sure.

Thank you and I know you will do the right thing for the people of Illinois.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Joan Bullard". The signature is written in a cursive style.

Joan Bullard





FAMILY EYE CARE

The People You Need to See

REID A. PETTIT, O.D.
BRYAN M. STOLLER, O.D.

facsimile
TRANSMITTAL

date: 8-26-08

to: COGFA - attn: Senator Jeff Schoenberg
Representative Rich Myers

from: Family Eye Care
- Denise -

pages: 3 including this cover

re:

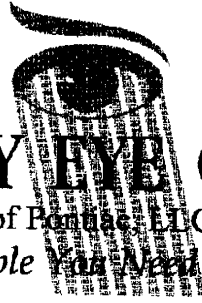
1-217-782-3513

THE INFORMATION CONTAINED IN THIS FAX IS CONFIDENTIAL AND/OR PRIVILEGED.

THIS FAX IS INTENDED TO BE REVIEWED INITIALLY BY ONLY THE INDIVIDUAL TO WHOM IT IS ADDRESSED. IF YOU ARE NOT THE INTENDED RECIPIENT OR REPRESENTATIVE OF THE INTENDED RECIPIENT, YOU ARE HEREBY NOTIFIED THAT ANY REVIEW, DISSEMINATION OR COPYING OF THE INFORMATION HEREIN IS PROHIBITED.

IF YOU HAVE RECEIVED THIS FAX IN ERROR, PLEASE IMMEDIATELY NOTIFY THE SENDER BY TELEPHONE AT (815) 842-4304 AND MAIL THESE DOCUMENTS TO THE SENDER AT THE ADDRESS BELOW. THANK YOU.

320 North Ladd Street • Pontiac, Illinois 61764 • Phone 815-842-4304 • Fax 815-844-5495



FAMILY EYE CARE

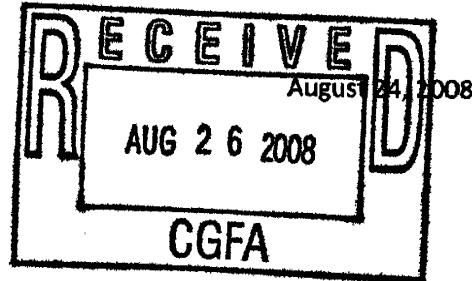
of Pontiac, LLC

The People You Need to See

Vision Source!

REID A. PETTIT, O.D.
BRYAN M. STOLLER, O.D.

Senator Jeff Schoenberg – Co-Chairman
Representative Rich Myers – Co-Chairman
Commission on Government
Forecasting and Accountability
703 Stratton Office Building
Springfield, IL 62706



Dear Sirs:

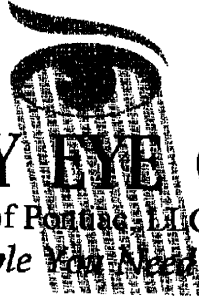
We are writing today on behalf of our optometric practice and our staff of eleven hard-working hourly employees to voice our strong opposition to the closing of the Pontiac Correctional Center (PCC).

As a private practice, our patient base is comprised of the rank and file of a broad cross-section of area patients. A substantial percentage of these patients are employed by PCC. An unknowable percent of the rest are involved in some form of support for PCC and therefore depend on PCC for much of their livelihood.

We have heard what the numbers are in terms of the economic impact on our area. The numbers are meaningful to be sure, but what has to be visualized is what they mean in terms of how the average Pontiac area business and its employees are affected.

From our immediate area of influence, our clinic, we can say that it would be very likely that our proposed office expansion project will be scrapped. This will mean that revenue to local contractors and their employees will be lost. It also means that we will not be able to bring on a new employee or two, thereby denying a position to someone who truly needs a job. It remains to be seen whether we may have to freeze wages or even lay off a current employee if PCC closes. It doesn't need to be spelled out the chain of lost income and buying power that spiral from our situation and that of other area businesses that will be faced with the same prospects with which we are faced.

It also means that welfare ranks will swell in Pontiac and in our office as well. Tax revenues to the state will suffer accordingly with the loss of practice revenues that occur with low welfare reimbursements. A once proud, hard working community will become (as it has increasingly become in recent years due to the regional and national economic slow down) a center for welfare and between-the-cracks poverty.



FAMILY EYE CARE

of Pontiac, LLC

The People You Need to See

REID A. PETTIT, O.D.
BRYAN M. STOLLER, O.D.

Vision Source!

What was particularly powerful to us was learning that a prospective new business for Pontiac, a large employer we understand, decided not to come to Pontiac because of the possibility of PCC's closure. Will other site-seeking businesses be deterred as well? What this speaks to is the fact that PCC's closure will not only cause the immediate impact at the epicenter of Pontiac's economic well-being, but have a ripple effect that will linger for the foreseeable future. Pontiac will become a depressed area for years.

We ask that you consider the plight of a hard-working community and its good people. It doesn't have to be this way.

Sincerely,

The Doctors and Staff of Family Eye Care of Pontiac, LLC

[Handwritten signature]

Reid A. Pettit

Laura E. Vogel

Charity Burroughs

Kei Lewis

Kim Householder

Bryan M. Stoller

Janet Turner

Ann Worthington

Julie Vial

Anna Jabon

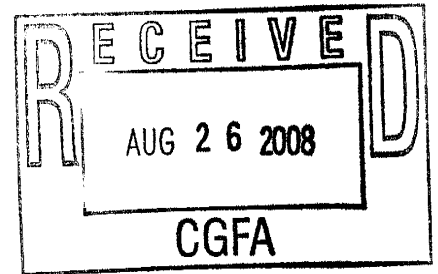
Greg Rygh

Alanna Holub

Michelle Clark
404 E. James Street
Dwight, Illinois 60420-1518
815-584-3941

August 25, 2008

Senator Jeffrey Schoenberg, Co-Chairman
Representative Richard Myers, Co-Chairman
Commission of Government Forecasting and Accountability
703 Stratton Office Building
Springfield, IL 62706



RE: Proposed Closure of Pontiac Correctional Center

Ladies and Gentlemen of the Commission:

Thank you again for giving me the opportunity to give testimony before you at the public hearing August 20, 2008, and for carefully considering all the information provided to you regarding the planned closure of Pontiac Correctional Center. I commend you for requesting revised economic impact numbers as soon as you realized how unrealistic the original report was. I also appreciate your holding the Department's feet to the fire over the specifics of their report.

Enclosed please find copies of the relevant pages I located on the Illinois Comptroller's website showing the 7.5 million dollars paid annually by the Illinois Department of Corrections to the Cook County Temporary Housing Authority, as I stated in my testimony. This amount has been paid each fiscal year beginning with fiscal year 2004. To date I have found records of payments totaling 37.5 million dollars, and the same amount has been budgeted for FY'09. As I stated at the hearing, these payments are in addition to the money paid for the Juvenile Boot Camp. While I don't know how this information factors into the big picture for Pontiac, I could not allow the false impression to linger that IDOC paid no other money to Cook County, especially after Senator Radogno's pointed questioning on this subject.

The testimony I gave at the hearing about living and shopping in Iowa was based upon previous conversations with several of my fellow employees, in addition to my own feelings. Since the night of the hearing I have had at least fifty more correctional officers, most of whom were on duty at Pontiac Correctional Center during the hearing and listened to the proceedings on the radio, thank me for expressing for them what they most wanted the commission members to hear. While we are committed to our jobs, we feel like pawns on a chessboard, and will take the opportunity to do what we can to move off the chessboard and out of reach of the chess master.

The evidence presented at the hearing seems to clearly indicate that the economic loss to Central Illinois caused by the closure of Pontiac Correctional Center will far outweigh any potential economic boost to Northwest Illinois by opening Thomson Correctional Center. It seems obvious that, fiscally speaking, the planned closure of Pontiac in order to open Thomson is not in the best interest of the State of Illinois.

I was born and raised in Livingston County north of Pontiac, Illinois. Until moving into Evenglow Lodge (nursing home) 2 years ago, my grandmother, now 97, lived in a house two blocks from the prison for 30 years. I vividly remember coming back from journalism camp at Ball State University on July 28, 1978 and seeing the black smoke rising above the town from the fires at the prison. My parents were scheduled to attend a class reunion that night with one of the officers killed during the riot.

I began working in the law library at Pontiac Correctional Center in 1984, after attending the University of Illinois for four years. Six years ago I transferred back to Pontiac Correctional Center after working 2 years in the library of the juvenile correctional center in Joliet and 13 years helping defend the Department against inmate lawsuits at Stateville Correctional Center. After years of apartment living, I finally bought my first house and settled down to continue my work in litigation for the Department until I retired.

I am committed to my job with the Department and have been told I do it well. I frequently work up to 55 hours over 6 days per week without any additional compensation. If Pontiac Correctional Center closes, I will continue to do my job, probably either at Stateville Correctional Center or Thomson Correctional Center. If I'm at Stateville, I will face relocation or a commute of at least two hours a day. If I have to transfer to Thomson, I will be forced to try to sell my house in a lousy housing market in an area suddenly filled with homes for sale.

I am not a spoiled brat whining because I'm not getting my way, nor am I do-nothing state employee. All I want is not to be jerked out of my job, out of my home, away from my family and out of my life just because I live in an area whose elected representatives belong to a different political party than the Governor and who refuse to rubber stamp his

plans. The initial plan to close Pontiac in order to open Thomson was ill-conceived and based on fuzzy numbers to try to make the math work out. When those numbers are adjusted for reality, it is obvious that the state will lose \$20 to \$30 million per year. Those numbers are much larger than any anticipated savings the Department stands to realize from the operation of the much more efficient Thomson Correctional Center.

Please do not allow this flawed plan to proceed. Do not close Pontiac Correctional Center. Thank you for considering what I and my neighbors, friends, co-workers and fellow citizens of Central Illinois have to say.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Michelle Clark". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, stylized "M" and "C".

Michelle Clark

Enclosures

Payments Made to Cook County from Corrections

FY 08	\$9,000,000.00
FY 07	\$9,000,000.00
FY 06	\$8,750,000.00
FY 05	\$8,500,000.00
FY 04	\$8,500,000.00
FY 03	\$0
TOTAL	\$43,750,000.00

Temporary Detention Center 1100 S. Hamilton Avenue Chicago, IL \$7,500,000.00/FY for FY04-FY08	\$37,500,000.00
Cook Co Sheriff's Boot Camp 2801 South Rockwell Ave Chicago, IL \$1,500,000/FY for FY07-FY08	\$3,000,000.00
BootCamp ATTN John Robinson Richard J Daley Ctr Room 704 Chicago, IL \$1,250,000/FY06 + \$1,000,000.00/FY for FY04-FY05	\$3,250,000.00
TOTAL	\$43,750,000.00



Open Book

A searchable database of state contracts and campaign contributions

DANIEL W. HENES
COMPTROLLER

Detail Information on COOK COUNTY



Print



Send



Search Again



Help



Comptroller Home Page

Contract Analysis for COOK COUNTY OF

Sorry, no contribution information available.

All contracts since FY 2003 in descending order.

Agency	FY	Contract	Amount
Fiscal Year 2008			
IL EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT AGCY	2008	588/805UASICOOK	\$20,748,594.78
COOK COUNTY OF		69 WEST WASHINGTON, 5TH FLOOR CHICAGO , IL, 60602-3136	
IL EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT AGCY	2008	588/807UASICOOK	\$16,547,999.00
COOK COUNTY		69 WEST WASHINGTON ST STE 2610 CHICAGO , IL, 60602	
COMMERCE AND ECONOMIC OPPORTUN	2008	420/80007681007	\$14,041,100.00
COOK COUNTY COUNTY		PRESIDENT'S OFC OF EMPL & TRNG 69 W WASHINGTON ST STE 2860 CHICAGO , IL, 60602-3046	
HEALTHCARE & FAMILY SERVICES	2008	478/88KCOK00004	\$13,442,350.00
COOK COUNTY		C/O WALTER KNORR COMPTROLLER 118 N CLARK ROOM 500 CHICAGO , IL, 60602-1304	
IL EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT AGCY	2008	588/806UASICOOK	\$13,065,000.00
COOK CNTY		69 W WASHINGTON ST STE 2610 CHICAGO , IL, 60602	

HUMAN SERVICES	2008	444/811G8131000	\$11,211,000.00
COOK COUNTY		DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH 1010 LAKE ST STE 300 OAK PARK , IL, 60301	
IL EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT AGCY	2008	588/804COOKUASI	\$9,164,452.02
COOK COUNTY		69 WEST WASHINGTON ST STE 2610 CHICAGO , IL, 60602	
TRANSPORTATION	2008	494/8000AL08279	\$8,487,006.00
COOK COUNTY		HIGHWAY DEPT 69 W WASHINGTON CHICAGO , IL, 60602	
HEALTHCARE & FAMILY SERVICES	2008	478/88KCOK00002	\$8,226,204.00
COOK COUNTY		%WALTER KNORR COMPTROLLER 118 N CLARK ROOM 500 CHICAGO , IL, 60602-1304	
CORRECTIONS	2008	426/80000108036	\$7,500,000.00
COOK COUNTY		TEMPORARY DETENTION CENTER 1100 S HAMILTON AVENUE CHICAGO , IL, 60612-4207	
COMMERCE AND ECONOMIC OPPORTUN	2008	420/80006681007	\$7,096,526.48
COOK COUNTY COUNTY		PRESIDENT'S OFC OF EMPL & TRNG 69 W WASHINGTON ST STE 2860 CHICAGO , IL, 60602-3046	
TRANSPORTATION	2008	494/8000AL07147	\$5,515,708.00
COOK COUNTY		HIGHWAY DEPT 69 W WASHINGTON CHICAGO , IL, 60602	
HEALTHCARE & FAMILY SERVICES	2008	478/88KCOK00003	\$3,263,583.00
COOK COUNTY		%WALTER KNORR COMPTROLLER 118 N CLARK ROOM 500 CHICAGO , IL, 60602-1304	
PUBLIC HEALTH	2008	482/80085080017	\$2,061,594.00
COOK COUNTY		COOK COUNTY DEPT/PUB HEALTH 1010 LAKE STREET SUITE 300 OAK PARK , IL, 60301-1133	
PUBLIC HEALTH	2008	482/80087181016	\$1,837,007.00
COOK COUNTY		COOK COUNTY DEPT/PUB HEALTH 1010 LAKE STREET SUITE 300 OAK PARK , IL, 60301-1133	
HEALTHCARE &			

FAMILY SERVICES	2008	478/88KCOK00001	\$1,785,267.00
COOK COUNTY		%WALTER KNORR COMPTROLLER 118 N CLARK ROOM 500 CHICAGO , IL, 60602-1304	
CORRECTIONS	2008	426/80000108025	\$1,500,000.00
COOK COUNTY		COOK CO SHERIFF'S BOOT CAMP 2801 SOUTH ROCKWELL AVE CHICAGO , IL, 60608-5723	
TRANSPORTATION	2008	494/8000AL06244	\$1,500,000.00
COOK COUNTY		HIGHWAY DEPT 69 W WASHINGTON CHICAGO , IL, 60602	
HUMAN SERVICES	2008	444/811G8129000	\$1,407,040.63
COOK COUNTY		JOHN H STROGER JR HOSP/DIR OFF 1901 W HARRISON 5TH FL EAST CHICAGO , IL, 60612	
TRANSPORTATION	2008	494/8000AL07373	\$1,360,000.00
COOK COUNTY		HIGHWAY DEPT 69 W WASHINGTON CHICAGO , IL, 60602	
IL CRIMINAL JUSTICE INFO AUTH	2008	546/80JAG405289	\$880,000.00
COOK COUNTY		SA OFFICE ATTN R BALCARCEL 69 WEST WASHINGTON SUITE 3200 CHICAGO , IL, 60602-3174	
PUBLIC HEALTH	2008	482/80083281016	\$774,322.00
COOK COUNTY		COOK COUNTY DEPT/PUB HEALTH 1010 LAKE STREET SUITE 300 OAK PARK , IL, 60301-1133	
PUBLIC HEALTH	2008	482/80075780891	\$679,830.00
COOK COUNTY		COOK COUNTY DEPT/PUB HEALTH 1010 LAKE STREET SUITE 300 OAK PARK , IL, 60301-1133	
PUBLIC HEALTH	2008	482/80085780645	\$679,000.00
COOK COUNTY		COOK COUNTY DEPT/PUB HEALTH 1010 LAKE STREET SUITE 300 OAK PARK , IL, 60301-1133	
IL CRIMINAL JUSTICE INFO AUTH	2008	546/80AWL606010	\$500,000.00
COOK COUNTY		SA OFFICE ATTN R BALCARCEL 69 WEST WASHINGTON, SUITE 3200 CHICAGO , IL, 60602-3174	
ATTORNEY GENERAL	2008	340/833CCOOK007	\$459,073.40

COOK COUNTY		C/O WALTER KNORR COMPTROLLER 118 N CLARK ROOM 500 CHICAGO , IL, 60602-1304	
IL EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT AGCY	2007	588/706UASICOOK	\$13,065,000.00
COOK COUNTY		69 WEST WASHINGTON ST STE 2610 CHICAGO , IL, 60602	
HUMAN SERVICES	2007	444/711G7131000	\$10,919,418.00
COOK COUNTY		DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH 1010 LAKE ST STE 300 OAK PARK , IL, 60301	
COMMERCE AND ECONOMIC OPPORTUN	2007	420/70005681007	\$9,045,133.49
COOK COUNTY COUNTY		PRESIDENT'S OFC OF EMPL & TRNG 69 W WASHINGTON ST STE 2860 CHICAGO , IL, 60602-3046	
HEALTHCARE & FAMILY SERVICES	2007	478/76KCOK00002	\$8,226,204.00
COOK COUNTY		C/O WALTER KNORR COMPTROLLER 118 N CLARK ROOM 500 CHICAGO , IL, 60602-1304	
COMMERCE AND ECONOMIC OPPORTUN	2007	420/70006681007	\$8,182,866.52
COOK COUNTY COUNTY		PRESIDENT'S OFC OF EMPL & TRNG 69 W WASHINGTON ST STE 2860 CHICAGO , IL, 60602-3046	
CORRECTIONS	2007	426/70000104010	\$7,500,000.00
COOK COUNTY		TEMPORARY DETENTION CENTER 1100 S HAMILTON AVENUE CHICAGO , IL, 60612-4207	
TRANSPORTATION	2007	494/7000AL07147	\$5,515,708.00
COOK COUNTY		HIGHWAY DEPT 69 W WASHINGTON CHICAGO , IL, 60602	
TRANSPORTATION	2007	494/7000AL06244	\$3,500,000.00
COOK COUNTY		HIGHWAY DEPT 69 W WASHINGTON CHICAGO , IL, 60602	
HEALTHCARE & FAMILY SERVICES	2007	478/76KCOK00003	\$3,263,583.00
COOK COUNTY		C/O WALTER KNORR COMPTROLLER 118 N CLARK ROOM 500 CHICAGO , IL, 60602-1304	

PUBLIC HEALTH	2007	482/70075080017	\$2,061,594.00
COOK COUNTY		COOK COUNTY DEPT/PUB HEALTH 1010 LAKE STREET SUITE 300 OAK PARK , IL, 60301-1133	
HEALTHCARE & FAMILY SERVICES	2007	478/76KCOK00001	\$1,785,267.00
COOK COUNTY		C/O WALTER KNORR COMPTROLLER 118 N CLARK ROOM 500 CHICAGO , IL, 60602-1304	
CORRECTIONS	2007	426/70000907013	\$1,500,000.00
COOK COUNTY		COOK CO SHERIFF'S BOOT CAMP 2801 SOUTH ROCKWELL AVE CHICAGO , IL, 60608-5723	
REVENUE	2007	492/70000000701	\$1,500,000.00
COOK COUNTY ASSESSOR		C/O JAMES M HOULIHAN 118 N CLARK STREET CHICAGO , IL, 60602	
TRANSPORTATION	2007	494/7000AL07373	\$1,360,000.00
COOK COUNTY		HIGHWAY DEPT 69 W WASHINGTON CHICAGO , IL, 60602	
HUMAN SERVICES	2007	444/711G7129000	\$1,126,703.26
COOK COUNTY		JOHN H STROGER JR HOSP/DIR OFF 1901 W HARRISON 5TH FL EAST CHICAGO , IL, 60612	
PUBLIC HEALTH	2007	482/70077181016	\$940,477.04
COOK COUNTY		COOK COUNTY DEPT/PUB HEALTH 1010 LAKE STREET SUITE 300 OAK PARK , IL, 60301-1133	
IL CRIMINAL JUSTICE INFO AUTH	2007	546/70JAG405089	\$847,567.19
COOK COUNTY		SA OFFICE ATTN R BALCARCEL 69 W WASHINGTON SUITE 3200 CHICAGO , IL, 60602-3174	
PUBLIC HEALTH	2007	482/70073281016	\$776,322.00
COOK COUNTY		COOK COUNTY DEPT/PUB HEALTH 1010 LAKE STREET SUITE 300 OAK PARK , IL, 60301-1133	
PUBLIC HEALTH	2007	482/70075780891	\$655,455.16
COOK COUNTY		COOK COUNTY DEPT/PUB HEALTH 1010 LAKE STREET SUITE 300 OAK PARK , IL, 60301-1133	
PUBLIC HEALTH	2007	482/70065780374	\$641,402.13

IL CRIMINAL JUSTICE INFO AUTH	2007	546/70000024010	\$0.00
COOK COUNTY		CIRCUIT COURT CLERK 50 W WASHINGTON, ROOM 1001 CHICAGO , IL, 60602-1316	
IL VIOLENCE PREVENTION AUTH	2007	559/706FVC02297	\$0.00
COOK COUNTY		OFFICE OF THE CHIEF JUDGE 2604 RICHARD J DALEY CENTER CHICAGO , IL, 60602	
		Fiscal Year 2006	
IL EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT AGCY	2006	588/605UASICOOK	\$22,465,000.00
COOK COUNTY OF		69 WEST WASHINGTON STE 2610 CHICAGO , IL, 60602-3136	
IL EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT AGCY	2006	588/600COOKUASI	\$14,482,006.08
COOK COUNTY		69 WEST WASHINGTON 5TH FLOOR CHICAGO , IL, 60602-3136	
IL EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT AGCY	2006	588/604UASICOOK	\$13,720,303.22
COOK COUNTY		69 WEST WASHINGTON 5TH FLOOR CHICAGO , IL, 60602-3136	
HEALTHCARE & FAMILY SERVICES	2006	478/66KCOK00004	\$12,596,836.00
COOK COUNTY		C/O WALTER KNORR COMPTROLLER 118 N CLARK ROOM 500 CHICAGO , IL, 60602-1304	
HUMAN SERVICES	2006	444/611G6131000	\$10,688,459.00
COOK COUNTY		DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH 1010 LAKE ST STE 300 OAK PARK , IL, 60301	
HEALTHCARE & FAMILY SERVICES	2006	478/66KCOK00002	\$7,986,606.00
COOK COUNTY		C/O WALTER KNORR COMPTROLLER 118 N CLARK ROOM 500 CHICAGO , IL, 60602-1304	
CORRECTIONS	2006	426/60000104010	\$7,500,000.00
COOK COUNTY		TEMPORARY DETENTION CENTER 1100 S HAMILTON AVENUE CHICAGO , IL, 60612-4207	
COMMERCE AND			

JUSTICE INFO AUTH	2006	546/60000024010	\$0.00
COOK COUNTY		CIRCUIT COURT CLERK COUNTY BUILDING-ROOM 500 CHICAGO , IL, 60602-0001	
TRANSPORTATION	2006	494/6000AL95201	\$0.00
COOK COUNTY TREASURER		IPTIP 2ND FL JEFFERSON TERRACE 300 W JEFFERSON SPRINGFIELD , IL, 62702	
Fiscal Year 2005			
IL EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT AGCY	2005	588/504UASICOOK	\$16,869,672.00
COOK COUNTY		69 WEST WASHINGTON 5TH FLOOR CHICAGO , IL, 60602-3136	
IL EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT AGCY	2005	588/500COOKUASI	\$14,548,727.19
COOK COUNTY		69 W WASHINGTON 5TH FLR CHICAGO , IL, 60602	
PUBLIC AID	2005	478/54KCOK00004	\$12,162,607.00
COOK COUNTY		C/O WALTER KNORR COMPTROLLER 118 N CLARK ROOM 500 CHICAGO , IL, 60602-1304	
HUMAN SERVICES	2005	444/511G5131000	\$10,574,800.00
COOK COUNTY		DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH 1010 LAKE ST STE 300 OAK PARK , IL, 60301	
PUBLIC AID	2005	478/54KCOK00002	\$7,986,606.00
COOK COUNTY		C/O WALTER KNORR COMPTROLLER 118 N CLARK ROOM 500 CHICAGO , IL, 60602-1304	
CORRECTIONS	2005	426/50000104010	\$7,500,000.00
COOK COUNTY		TEMPORARY DETENTION CENTER 1100 S HAMILTON AVENUE CHICAGO , IL, 60612-4207	
COMMERCE AND ECONOMIC OPPORTUN	2005	420/50000468107	\$6,746,073.62
COOK COUNTY		PRESIDENT'S OFC OF EMPL & TRNG 69 W WASHINGTON ST STE 2860 CHICAGO , IL, 60602-3046	
COMMERCE AND ECONOMIC OPPORTUN	2005	420/50000368107	\$4,088,517.49
		PRESIDENT'S OFC OF EMPL & TRNG	

Fiscal Year 2004			
IL EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT AGCY	2004	588/404UASICOOK	\$16,869,672.00
COOK COUNTY		69 WEST WASHINGTON 5TH FLOOR CHICAGO , IL, 60602-3136	
IL EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT AGCY	2004	588/400COOKUASI	\$14,548,727.19
COOK COUNTY		69 WEST WASHINGTON 5TH FLOOR CHICAGO , IL, 60602	
PUBLIC AID	2004	478/44KCOK00004	\$11,368,168.00
COOK COUNTY		C/O J CHAMBERS 118 N CLARK ROOM 500 CHICAGO , IL, 60602-1304	
HUMAN SERVICES	2004	444/411G4131000	\$10,370,320.00
COOK COUNTY		DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH 1010 LAKE ST STE 300 OAK PARK , IL, 60301	
COMMERCE AND ECONOMIC OPPORTUN	2004	420/40000368107	\$9,629,233.51
COOK COUNTY		PRESIDENT'S OFC OF EMPL & TRNG 69 W WASHINGTON ST STE 2860 CHICAGO , IL, 60602-3046	
COMMERCE AND ECONOMIC OPPORTUN	2004	420/40000268107	\$8,655,835.71
COOK COUNTY		PRESIDENT'S OFC OF EMPL & TRNG 69 W WASHINGTON ST STE 2860 CHICAGO , IL, 60602-3046	
PUBLIC AID	2004	478/44KCOK00002	\$7,986,606.00
COOK COUNTY		C/O J CHAMBERS 118 N CLARK ROOM 500 CHICAGO , IL, 60602-1304	
CORRECTIONS	2004	426/40000104010	\$7,500,000.00
COOK COUNTY		TEMPORARY DETENTION CENTER 1100 S HAMILTON AVENUE CHICAGO , IL, 60612-4207	
PUBLIC AID	2004	478/44KCOK00003	\$3,002,920.00
COOK COUNTY		C/O J CHAMBERS 118 N CLARK ROOM 500 CHICAGO , IL, 60602-1304	
NATURAL RESOURCES	2004	422/40000MC0315	\$2,900,000.00
		COMPTROLLER COOK COUNTY	



Open Book

A searchable database of state contracts and campaign contributions

DANIEL W. H. COMPTROLLER
www.coc.state.il

Detail Information on COOK COUNTY



Print



Send



Search Again



Help



Comptroller Home Page

Contract Analysis for COOK COUNTY TREASURER OF

Sorry, no contribution information available.

All contracts since FY 2003 in descending order.

Agency	FY	Contract	Amount
Fiscal Year 2008			
TRANSPORTATION	2008	494/8000AL01042	\$412,000.00
COOK COUNTY TREASURER OF		DBAFOREST PRESERVE DISTRICT 536 N HARLEM AVE RIVER FOREST , IL, 60305	
TRANSPORTATION	2008	494/8000XL01119	\$43,000.00
COOK COUNTY TREASURER OF		IPTIP 2ND FL JEFFERSON TERRACE 300 W JEFFERSON SPRINGFIELD , IL, 99999	
TRANSPORTATION	2008	494/8000AL05212	\$26,645.39
COOK COUNTY TREASURER		DBAFOREST PRESERVE DISTRICT 536 N HARLEM AVE RIVER FOREST , IL, 60305	
TRANSPORTATION	2008	494/8000XL01011	\$26,000.00
COOK COUNTY TREASURER OF		IPTIP 2ND FL JEFFERSON TERRACE 300 W JEFFERSON SPRINGFIELD , IL, 99999	
Fiscal Year 2007			
TRANSPORTATION	2007	494/7000AD98008	\$951,390.58
COOK COUNTY TREASURER OF		C/O CARL KOWALSKI SUPT OF HWYS 118 NO CLARK ST RM 1122 CHICAGO , IL, 60602	
TRANSPORTATION	2007	494/7000AL01042	\$412,000.00

COOK COUNTY TREASURER OF	DBAFOREST PRESERVE DISTRICT 536 N HARLEM AVE RIVER FOREST , IL, 60305		
TRANSPORTATION	2007 494/7000AL05212	\$126,970.26	
COOK COUNTY TREASURER	DBAFOREST PRESERVE DISTRICT 536 N HARLEM AVE RIVER FOREST , IL, 60305		
TRANSPORTATION	2007 494/7000AL97275	\$123,172.53	
COOK COUNTY	FOREST PRESERVE DIST 536 N HARLEM AVE RIVER FOREST , IL, 60305		
TRANSPORTATION	2007 494/7000AD97054	\$113,851.90	
COOK COUNTY	TREASURER CHICAGO , IL, 60602		
TRANSPORTATION	2007 494/7000XL01119	\$43,000.00	
COOK COUNTY TREASURER OF	IPTIP 2ND FL JEFFERSON TERRACE 300 W JEFFERSON SPRINGFIELD , IL, 99999		
TRANSPORTATION	2007 494/7000XL01011	\$26,000.00	
COOK COUNTY TREASURER OF	IPTIP 2ND FL JEFFERSON TERRACE 300 W JEFFERSON SPRINGFIELD , IL, 99999		
TRANSPORTATION	2007 494/7000AL00414	\$0.00	
COOK COUNTY TREASURER	DBAFOREST PRESERVE DISTRICT 536 N HARLEM AVE RIVER FOREST , IL, 60305		
TRANSPORTATION	2007 494/7000AL02297	\$0.00	
COOK COUNTY TREASURER	DBAFOREST PRESERVE DISTRICT 536 N HARLEM AVE RIVER FOREST , IL, 60305		
Fiscal Year 2006			
CORRECTIONS	2006 426/60000106024	\$1,250,000.00	
COOK COUNTY	BOOTCAMP ATTN JOHN ROBINSON RICHARD J DALEY CTR ROOM 704 CHICAGO , IL, 60602-9999		
TRANSPORTATION	2006 494/6000AD98008	\$951,390.58	
COOK COUNTY TREASURER OF	C/O CARL KOWALSKI SUPT OF HWYS 118 NO CLARK ST RM 1122 CHICAGO , IL, 60602		
TRANSPORTATION	2006 494/6000AL86179	\$527,293.66	
COOK COUNTY	SUPT OF HIGHWAYS 118 N CLARK ST COUNTY BLDG CHICAGO , IL, 60602		
TRANSPORTATION	2006 494/6000AL01042	\$412,000.00	

COOK COUNTY TREASURER OF	DBAFOREST PRESERVE DISTRICT 536 N HARLEM AVE RIVER FOREST , IL, 60305		
TRANSPORTATION	2006 494/6000AL05212	\$216,000.00	
COOK COUNTY TREASURER	DBAFOREST PRESERVE DISTRICT 536 N HARLEM AVE RIVER FOREST , IL, 60305		
TRANSPORTATION	2006 494/6000AD98031	\$141,335.48	
COOK COUNTY TREASURER	69 W WASHINGTON ST 23RD FLOOR CHICAGO , IL, 60602		
TRANSPORTATION	2006 494/6000AL97275	\$123,172.53	
COOK COUNTY	FOREST PRESERVE DIST 536 N HARLEM AVE RIVER FOREST , IL, 60305		
TRANSPORTATION	2006 494/6000AD97054	\$113,851.90	
COOK COUNTY	TREASURER CHICAGO , IL, 60602		
TRANSPORTATION	2006 494/6000XL01119	\$43,000.00	
COOK COUNTY TREASURER OF	IPTIP 2ND FL JEFFERSON TERRACE 300 W JEFFERSON SPRINGFIELD , IL, 99999		
TRANSPORTATION	2006 494/6000AL02297	\$37,793.76	
COOK COUNTY TREASURER OF	DBAFOREST PRESERVE DISTRICT 536 N HARLEM AVE RIVER FOREST , IL, 60305		
TRANSPORTATION	2006 494/6000XL01011	\$26,000.00	
COOK COUNTY TREASURER OF	IPTIP 2ND FL JEFFERSON TERRACE 300 W JEFFERSON SPRINGFIELD , IL, 99999		
TRANSPORTATION	2006 494/6000AL00414	\$9,325.91	
COOK COUNTY TREASURER OF	DBAFOREST PRESERVE DISTRICT 536 N HARLEM AVE RIVER FOREST , IL, 60305		
TRANSPORTATION	2006 494/6000AD94001	\$1,000.00	
COOK COUNTY TREASURER OF	TREASURER CHICAGO , IL, 60602		
Fiscal Year 2005			
CORRECTIONS	2005 426/50000104005	\$1,000,000.00	
COOK COUNTY	BOOTCAMP ATTN JOHN ROBINSON RICHARD J DALEY CTR ROOM 704 CHICAGO , IL, 60602-9999		
TRANSPORTATION	2005 494/5000AD98008	\$951,390.58	

COOK COUNTY TREASURER OF	IPTIP 2ND FL JEFFERSON TERRACE 300 W JEFFERSON SPRINGFIELD , IL, 99999		
TRANSPORTATION	2005	494/5000XL01011	\$26,000.00
COOK COUNTY TREASURER OF	IPTIP 2ND FL JEFFERSON TERRACE 300 W JEFFERSON SPRINGFIELD , IL, 99999		
TRANSPORTATION	2005	494/5000AL98442	\$15,484.79
COOK COUNTY TREASURER	DBAFOREST PRESERVE DISTRICT 536 N HARLEM AVE RIVER FOREST , IL, 60305		
TRANSPORTATION	2005	494/5000AL00414	\$9,325.91
COOK COUNTY TREASURER OF	DBAFOREST PRESERVE DISTRICT 536 N HARLEM AVE RIVER FOREST , IL, 60305		
TRANSPORTATION	2005	494/5000AL98126	\$4,398.29
COOK COUNTY TREASURER	DBAFOREST PRESERVE DISTRICT 536 N HARLEM AVE RIVER FOREST , IL, 60305		
TRANSPORTATION	2005	494/5000AD94001	\$1,000.00
COOK COUNTY TREASURER OF	TREASURER CHICAGO , IL, 60602		
TRANSPORTATION	2005	494/5000AL87059	\$0.00
COOK COUNTY TREASURER	IPTIP 2ND FL JEFFERSON TERRACE 300 W JEFFERSON SPRINGFIELD , IL, 99999		
Fiscal Year 2004			
CORRECTIONS	2004	426/40000104005	\$1,000,000.00
COOK COUNTY	BOOTCAMP ATTN JOHN ROBINSON RICHARD J DALEY CTR ROOM 704 CHICAGO , IL, 60602-9999		
TRANSPORTATION	2004	494/4000AD98008	\$951,390.58
COOK COUNTY	C/O CARL KOWALSKI SUPT OF HWYS 118 NO CLARK ST RM 1122 CHICAGO , IL, 60602		
TRANSPORTATION	2004	494/4000AL86179	\$527,293.66
COOK COUNTY	SUPT OF HIGHWAYS 118 N CLARK ST COUNTY BLDG CHICAGO , IL, 60602		
TRANSPORTATION	2004	494/4000AL01042	\$412,000.00
COOK COUNTY	DBAFOREST PRESERVE DISTRICT 536 N HARLEM AVE RIVER FOREST , IL, 60305		
IL EMERGENCY			

EXPENDITURES STATEWIDE FUND AGENCY OBJECT OF DETAILED
YOU ARE HERE EXPENDITURE OBJECT



[Return to Query](#)

Form



Agency: 426 - CORRECTIONS
Expenditures by Object of Expenditure
Appropriated and Non Appropriated Spending
for Fiscal Year 07

1 - 20 of 23

Code	Object of Expenditure	Expended YTD
1120	REGULAR POSITIONS	\$673,187,442.39
1200	CONTRACTUAL SERVICES	\$201,327,140.76
1161	STATE EMPLOYEE RETIREMENT	\$77,565,431.24
1300	COMMODITIES	\$73,755,958.33
1900	LUMP SUMS AND OTHER PURPOSES	\$72,727,200.83
1170	SOC SEC/MEDICARE CONTRIBUTIONS	\$49,909,950.47
1700	TELECOMMUNICATION	\$11,758,217.82
1140	STUDENT MEMBER/INMATE COMPENS	\$9,093,746.67
4470	GRANTS TO LOC GOVERNMENTS,NEC	\$9,000,000.00
1800	OPERATION OF AUTO EQUIPMENT	\$7,968,110.03
1600	ELECTRONIC DATA PROCESSING	\$5,346,061.58
4400	AWARDS AND GRANTS	\$3,050,000.00
1180	EMPLOYER CONTRB GRP INSURANCE	\$2,194,448.45
1290	TRAVEL	\$1,201,137.48
4429	TORT CLAIMS	\$1,009,638.23
6900	PERMANENT IMPROVEMENT-LUMP SUM	\$974,892.80
4471	PAYMENTS TO LOC GOV EMPLOYEES	\$663,625.49
1302	PRINTING	\$647,570.04
1296	TRAVEL/ALLOWANCE, PRISONERS	\$642,452.64
1500	EQUIPMENT	\$399,486.37

EXPENDITURES STATEWIDE FUND AGENCY OBJECT OF DETAILED
 YOU ARE HERE EXPENDITURE OBJECT



[Return to Query](#)

Agency: 426 - CORRECTIONS
Expenditures by Object of Expenditure
Appropriated and Non Appropriated Spending
for Fiscal Year 06

Form

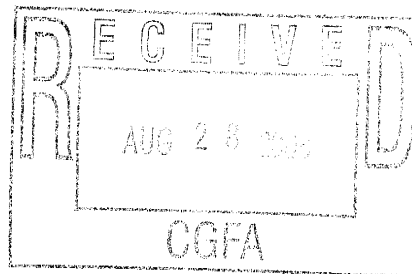


1 - 20 of 25

Code	Object of Expenditure	Expended YTD
1120	REGULAR POSITIONS	\$723,062,036.51
1200	CONTRACTUAL SERVICES	\$237,202,773.76
1300	COMMODITIES	\$73,029,574.38
1161	STATE EMPLOYEE RETIREMENT	\$56,337,331.67
1170	SOC SEC/MEDICARE CONTRIBUTIONS	\$53,585,555.58
1900	LUMP SUMS AND OTHER PURPOSES	\$39,615,728.46
1700	TELECOMMUNICATION	\$9,863,742.51
1140	STUDENT MEMBER/INMATE COMPENS	\$9,318,972.97
1129	STATE PAID RETIREMENT CONTRIB	\$9,099,679.15
4470	GRANTS TO LOC GOVERNMENTS,NEC	\$8,750,000.00
1800	OPERATION OF AUTO EQUIPMENT	\$7,123,565.28
1600	ELECTRONIC DATA PROCESSING	\$4,619,823.31
4400	AWARDS AND GRANTS	\$3,000,000.00
1180	EMPLOYER CONTRB GRP INSURANCE	\$2,283,264.44
1500	EQUIPMENT	\$1,817,718.44
6900	PERMANENT IMPROVEMENT-LUMP SUM	\$1,393,300.00
1290	TRAVEL	\$1,220,048.13
1296	TRAVEL/ALLOWANCE, PRISONERS	\$695,992.42
1302	PRINTING	\$695,258.58
4471	PAYMENTS TO LOC GOV EMPLOYEES	\$684,894.24

Governor Rod Blagojevich
207 State House
Springfield, IL 62706

August 11, 2008



Dear Governor Blagojevich:

My name is Jennifer Snell and I currently live in Chenoa, Illinois. I moved to central Illinois from Milwaukee, Wisconsin four years ago and now considered this to be my home.

I am writing to you to express the heartache, frustration, and helplessness that I am feeling in regards to the news of the Pontiac Prison closing. My husband, Justin Snell, has worked at the Pontiac Prison for seven years as a correctional officer. During this time, we have made many friends and have begun to plan our future lives together in the Pontiac area.

With the talk of the prison closing, we have been under a lot of stress both emotionally and financially. I teach English at Tri-Point High School and recently earned tenured status. I really love my job and feel that I make a difference in the community. The thought of having to up-root and give up what I have worked so hard to achieve professionally is heartbreaking. Along with becoming tenured, I am also going back to graduate school to pursue a Masters degree in Educational Administration which has always been a life-long goal. Trying to complete this program while teaching will be quite rigorous, but this will be even harder if my husband has to transfer to Thompson. He is the only support I have and I don't think that I can complete this difficult part of my life without him.

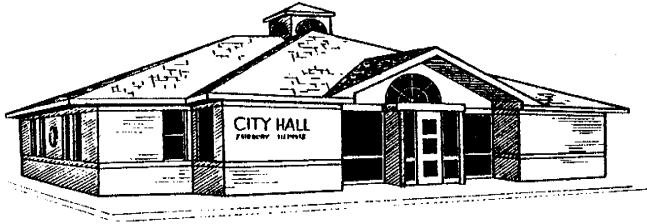
Further, closing the Pontiac Prison will not only affect our present lives, but also our future. We have talked about having children and raising them in the Pontiac area. This would be virtually impossible to do if we had to move to Thompson where we would not have any family or friends to support and help us in this life-altering event.

In addition to the affect it would have on us emotionally, it would also put a strain on us financially. In our particular situation, we would be unable to leave our home at the present time. Consequently, my husband would have to rent an apartment and pay utilities while also paying our mortgage. Along with separate housing costs, he would also have to spend a large amount of money in gas traveling from Thompson to Chenoa in order to spend time with me. Not to mention, the trips he may have to make if something needed to be repaired in our home.

In closing, I am simply asking you to reconsider your decision in closing the Pontiac Prison. It will drastically affect the lives of many people who love central Illinois and want to continue to call this area home.

Sincerely,

Jennifer Snell



CITY of FAIRBURY
P.O. Box 228 Fairbury, Illinois 61739

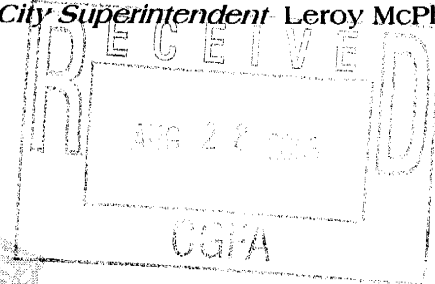
Mayor Robert P. Walter Jr

City Clerk Brenda DeFries

City Superintendent Leroy McPherson

August 23, 2008

Honorable Rich Myers – Co-chairman
Commission on Government
Forecasting and Accountability
703 Stratton Office Building
Springfield, Illinois 62706



Dear Representative Myers,

I want to share with you a few of my thoughts regarding the closing of the Pontiac Correctional Center from two perspectives. I served as the Assistant Regional Superintendent of Schools for Livingston County and had the opportunity to visit the Pontiac Correctional Center four times a year to register inmates for their GED certificates. I was in all areas of the prison including: segregation, condemned and protective custody. I found the facility to be safe and secure. It is old, but the constant maintenance has made the facility very effective.

I am currently completing my third term as Mayor of the City of Fairbury, which is fifteen miles southeast of Pontiac. Several families living in my community have relatives who work at the Pontiac Correctional Center. Closing it would have a negative impact on our community's economy, our schools and the involvement by many of the guards and their family members as they volunteer with various organizations and churches.

I understand the need to eliminate overcrowding, but closing the Pontiac Correctional Center will not achieve this goal. I would encourage you and the Commission to reconsider and oppose the recommendation to close Pontiac Correctional Center, but instead to support a transfer of inmates to Thomson, leave Pontiac open and develop a long range plan to address the prison population, overcrowding and safety concerns of the employees who work in corrections throughout the State of Illinois.

Thank you for your consideration of this request.

Sincerely,

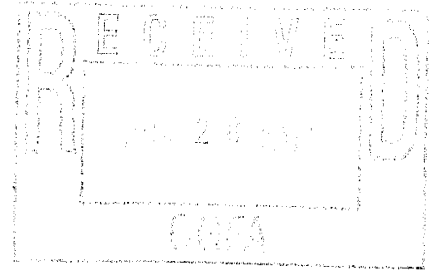
Robert P. Walter Jr.
Mayor



Office of the Mayor

August 26, 2008

Senator Jeff Schoenburg, Co-Chairman
Commission on Government Forecasting and Accountability
703 Stratton Office Building
Springfield, Illinois 62706



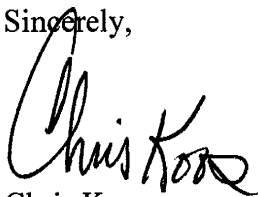
Dear Senator Schoenberg:

As Mayor of the Town of Normal, Illinois I would like to offer my strong support for the continuing operation of the Pontiac Correctional Center. The closing of this facility would not only be devastating to Pontiac, but would also have a tremendous negative impact in the greater Central Illinois region.

The Pontiac Correctional Center has been an integral part of the Illinois system for numerous years. The facility creates over 600 jobs and is an anchor in the local economy. By closing the facility the State will create an economic hardship throughout the region, during a time when many families are already struggling to make ends meet.

Again, I would like to offer my full support for the continuation of operations at the Pontiac Correctional Center. Thank you for your consideration of this important issue.

Sincerely,



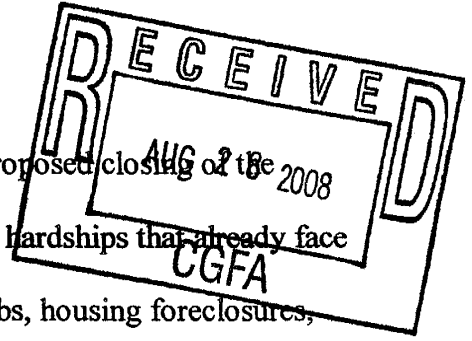
Chris Koos
Mayor

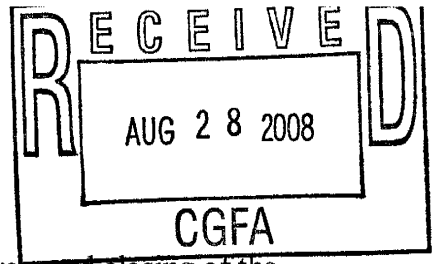
"Committed to Service Excellence"

100 East Phoenix Avenue • Post Office Box 589 • Normal, Illinois 61761-0589
Telephone (309) 454-2444 • Fax (309) 454-9609 • TDD (309) 454-9630
www.normal.org

Sir

It is with great concern that I write this letter in regard to the proposed closing of the 2008 Pontiac Correctional Center. It would only add to the economic hardships that already face the people of Illinois .Unless you are prepared for the loss of jobs, housing foreclosures, automobiles repossession and bankruptcy, I urge you to keep this facility open. It has served us quite well and is needed in the future...

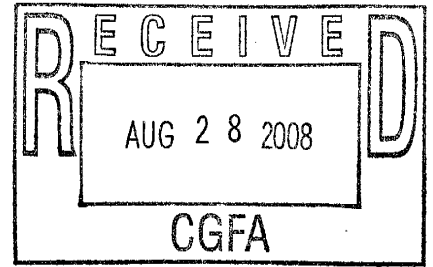




Sir

It is with great concern that I write this letter in regard to the proposed closing of the Pontiac Correctional Center. It would only add to the economic hardships that already face the people of Illinois .Unless you are prepared for the loss of jobs, housing foreclosures, automobiles repossession and bankruptcy, I urge you to keep this facility open. It has served us quite well and is needed in the future...

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Michael J. Dwyer". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, prominent initial "M".



August 6, 2008

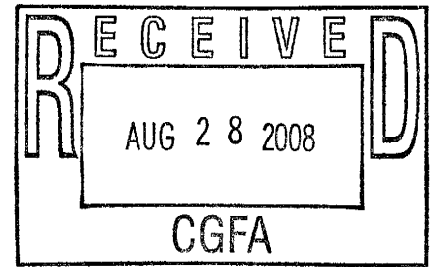
Senator Jeff Schoenberg - Co-Chairman
Representative Rich Meyers - Co-Chairman
Commission on Government
Forecasting and Accountability
703 Stratton Office Building
Springfield, Il 62706

Dear Senator Schoenberg and Representative Meyers:

Please re-consider this issue of closing Pontiac Prison. By now you have seen a lot of effort go into trying to make this not happen. The area towns surrounding the prison have taken many steps to show their support to keeping the prison open. The towns have signs, people adorning tee-shirts, they held a parade with a lot of support, a town picture was taken, many meetings have been held and alot of praying is being done. We need the Pontiac Prison to remain open. The facts have not proven beyond a reasonable doubt that it should close. Please take the time, with out all of the options and make the right decision. Keep PONTIAC PRISON open.

Sincerely, *Helen D. Cushing*

VILLAGE OF IUKA
POB 266
IUKA, IL 62849
August 22, 2008



Senator Jeff Schoenbert Co-Chairman
Representative Rich Myers Co-Chairman
Commission on Government
Forecasting and Accountability
703 Stratton Office Building
Springfield, IL 62706

Dear Senator Schoenbert and Representative Myers,

I am writing to let you know of my support to keeping the Pontiac Correctional Center open.

The Pontiac Correctional Center is a functioning and useful facility and we can only expect adverse effects by closing it.

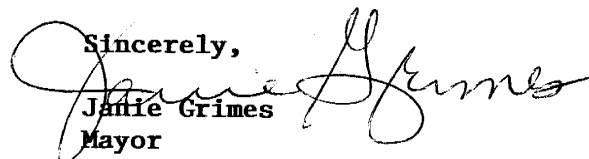
The unemployment rates just released showed the unemployed numbers have increased not just in Marion County but across the whole state. Closing the doors on the Pontiac Correctional Center will not only cause hardship there but to its neighbors in the central and southern part of the state as well.

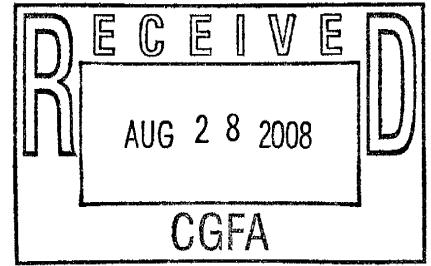
The fact that there are so few jobs available that pay wages to support a family have left many of our men and women no other choice but to depend on government services thus adding to the already heavily burdened welfare system.

The increased demand on these services by further lay offs even in Pontiac will effect the whole state. Resources are limited to help those who will need assistance with fuel costs this winter. Funds to our educational system to help retrain the unemployed have been cut to the point we have difficulty taking care of those we have now.

Increasing the demand for these and other services by laying off even more will only add to weaken our already unstable economy.

I ask that you reconsider this decision and help save Pontiac Correctional Center.

Sincerely,

Janie Grimes
Mayor



August 21, 2008

Governor Rod R. Blagojevich
Office of the Governor
207 State House
Springfield, IL 62706

Dear Governor Blagojevich,

The Southern Illinois Mayors Association would like to address its concern over the proposed closure of the Pontiac Correctional Center. The SIMA organization would like to offer its support to the Pontiac Correctional Center and requests that it remain open.

The Southern Illinois Mayors Association asks that you encourage your colleagues to consider our request and support keeping open the Pontiac Correctional Center. We appreciate your cooperation. If you have any questions or concerns, feel free to contact the SIMA President at:

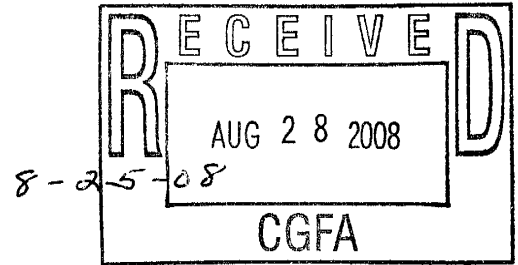
Southern Illinois Mayors Association
3141 Faner Hall
Mail Code 4506
Southern Illinois University
Carbondale, Illinois 62901-4506
Telephone: (618) 453-3175

We are looking forward to working with you on other issues that may occur.

Sincerely,

Janie Grimes
President

Cc: Senator Frank Watson
Representative Tom Cross
Senate President Emil Jones
House Speaker Michael Madigan
Mayor Scott McCoy



Senator Jeff Schoenberg
Commission on Government
Forecasting and Accountability

Dear Sir:

This letter is concerning the closure of Pontiac Correctional Center. We oppose your closing this institution for many reasons.

We are retired but some of our children and grandchildren are employed here and attend school here in Pontiac (not at PCC). but we know that it will affect where they work and the schools they attend. It WILL affect every business in Pontiac as well as surrounding areas.

Most people living in Pontiac area struggle every day to make a decent living With taxes, gasoline prices, grocery and clothing costs it takes two incomes to make ends meet. And that's not even counting what it costs to enroll children in school and college.

As former business owners here in Pontiac we can tell you first hand how hard it is to make ends meet. You must rely on people from the area to do business you and have to work really hard to keep your customers coming back. We know how hard it will be for business owners to make a living in Pontiac if you close PCC. We had many PCC employees as customers at our place of business. We sold our business in 2004. We know that PCC employees are still doing business there.

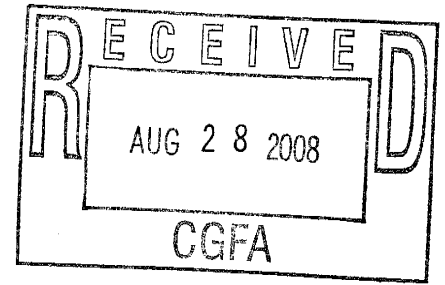
Pontiac is a friendly, caring community and we help those in need, so the only way we can help now is to ask you to reconsider closing PCC. Pontiac needs this facility to survive. We are proud of our town just as you are probably proud of where you live. Please don't disrupt so many families lives. We don't think that you would want that done to you or any of your family members.

We have friends who work at PCC and we are writing in their behalf as well as for the businessmen/women whose livelihood is at stake.

Thank you .

John & Marilyn Wyllie
207 E. Torrance Ave.
Pontiac, Il. 61764

**Dave and Pat Mishur
20527 N. 1100 E. Road
Pontiac, IL 61764**



Senator Jeff Schoenberg
Representative Rich Myers
Commission of Government Forecasting and Accountability
703 Stratton Office Building
Springfield, IL 62706

Dear Sirs:

There are two things that I would like you to keep in mind as you prepare your report to the governor concerning the DOC recommendation to close the Pontiac Correctional Center.

The first is that a good many of the inmates are black and from the Chicago area. They deserve and need regular visits from family members and loved ones.

The second is the convenience of Pontiac to the Chicago area, either by way of I-55 or Amtrak. To close the Correctional Center and relocate the inmates at other, less convenient locations, could be perceived as racially insensitive and discriminatory.

I attended the hearing in Pontiac and applaud you for a well run and informative event.

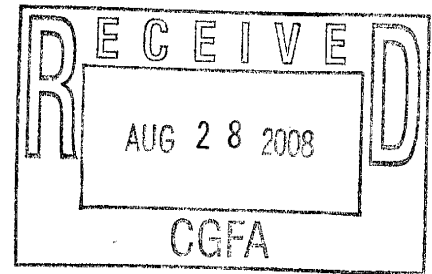
Thank You,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Dave Mishur".

Dave Mishur

c: Senator Dan Rutherford

August 20, 2008



Senator Jeff Schoenberg, Co-Chairman
Representative Rich Myers, Co-Chairman
Commission on Government
Forecasting and Accountability
703 Stratton Office Building
Springfield, IL 62706

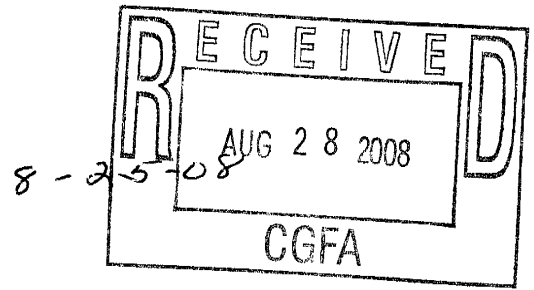
Dear Gentlemen,

Please reconsider closing the Pontiac Correctional Center. You are well aware of the negative economic & societal impact it will have, but I believe that is only part of the story. Ultimately, this is payback from the Governor to a predominately Republican area. By standing up for what is right I believe you will be fighting the politics as usual that is so common place in Illinois. The negative impact to this area far outweighs the miniscule savings of closing PCC, and by standing up to the governor and recommending PCC stay open, you will be serving the people, not the governor. I hope you will have the courage to do the right thing -- too many men in this day and age do not, and it would be refreshing to see someone who does. My thanks.

Sincerely,

Ken Albrecht
pharmacy manager
Walgreens 05460
Pontiac IL

Beth Albrecht
resource teacher
Lincoln Elementary
Pontiac, IL



Representative Rich Myers
Commission on Government
Forecasting and Accountability

Dear Sir:

This letter is concerning the closure of Pontiac Correctional Center. We oppose your closing this institution for many reasons.

We are retired but some of our children and grandchildren are employed here and attend school here in Pontiac (not at PCC). but we know that it will affect where they work and the schools they attend. It WILL affect every business in Pontiac as well as surrounding areas.

Most people living in Pontiac area struggle every day to make a decent living With taxes, gasoline prices, grocery and clothing costs it takes two incomes to make ends meet. And that's not even counting what it costs to enroll children in school and college.

As former business owners here in Pontiac we can tell you first hand how hard it is to make ends meet. You must rely on people from the area to do business you and have to work really hard to keep your customers coming back. We know how hard it will be for business owners to make a living in Pontiac if you close PCC. We had many PCC employees as customers at our place of business. We sold our business in 2004. We know that PCC employees are still doing business there.

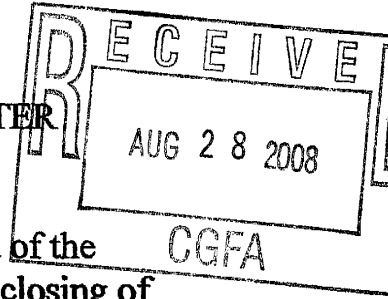
Pontiac is a friendly, caring community and we help those in need, so the only way we can help now is to ask you to reconsider closing PCC. Pontiac needs this facility to survive. We are proud of our town just as you are probably proud of where you live. Please don't disrupt so many families lives. We don't think that you would want that done to you or any of your family members.

We have friends who work at PCC and we are writing in their behalf as well as for the businessmen/women whose livelihood is at stake.

Thank you .

John & Marilyn Wyllie
207 E. Torrance Ave.
Pontiac, Il. 61764

REGARDING: CLOSING PONTIAC CORRECTIONAL CENTER



As registered voters and citizens who try to keep informed of the issues, we would like to express our concerns over the proposed closing of the Pontiac Correctional Center.

Years ago, when the state was looking for a site to build a new prison, the city of Pontiac wanted the prison to be built on land the State of Illinois already owned just south of the present day prison. However, the powers that be chose another site. Now, as inconceivable as it sounds, the state is considering closing Pontiac altogether -- at a time when there is already a problem with overcrowding in our prison system. If a place must be closed, the closing of the Roundhouse at Stateville would be (for the lack of a better phrase) a feasible economic choice. With the development and growth going on in the Joliet area, this part of the state could absorb the loss much easier than the rural community of Pontiac.

Livingston County and the city of Pontiac has not seen any significant growth in either economics or population in decades. How will the closure of Pontiac Correctional Center affect Pontiac? For one, our schools will lose the tax revenue needed to keep our schools at the level needed to prepare our students for their future. As our home values decrease (who wants to live in a town that has lost it's second largest employer?), our taxes will increase to help cover the cost of services in a county that is fourth in size and presently has a population of around 39,000 people.

Closing the prison would mean families being uprooted, (good luck in trying to sell your house!) kids would be removed from schools and friends. The biggest economic factor would be that most businesses (if not all) would suffer great losses. Some businesses will close and others will have to make some major adjustments like ordering inventory, the products and services now offered would have to be paired back, and loss of employment due to downsizing. Pontiac is the hub for employment for all of Livingston County. The prison's closing will not just effect Pontiac, but every little town and village in the entire county.

What does the state plan to do with the building and grounds once the prison closes? It will just be a matter of time before the site becomes an eye

sore! What happens to all the homes within the prison's vicinity? Who will buy a house that is located next to a huge abandoned configuration of buildings overrun with weeds? And please don't bother telling me that there is money set aside in the budget to take care of mowing and upkeep because we are all well aware of how well the budget works, or more aptly DOESN'T work!

How well prepared is the Thomson area when it comes to handling the problems a prison may bring to their area? Pontiac has the Illinois State Police Headquarters adjacent to the present prison property. The prison's location in Pontiac was one of the reasons that Pontiac has the headquarters located here. We also have a National Guard unit right here in Pontiac in case of trouble. How close is the nearest guard unit to Thomson? How long would it take for them to respond? Is the Thomson Center equipped to handle death row inmates? Where is the nearest hospital to the Thomson Center? Pontiac has a hospital within a few miles of the prison with a staff that is experienced in dealing with prisoners as patients. We also have a trained fire and rescue team that are experienced and knows the protocol involved with working within the prison atmosphere.

Does Thomson have the manpower to hire guards if not all of Pontiac's guards are willing to transfer there? If not, how much will it cost the State of Illinois to train new guards; and, do we WANT that many "new" guards with a bunch of seasoned and savvy inmates?

Where are all the new prison employees going to live? We understand housing in Thomson is limited -- how many prison guards can afford to build a new house on the salary they earn? The quad cities are close by, but that also means the possible loss of revenue to Illinois for those transferred guards to choose to live and shop in Iowa. At least here in Pontiac we don't have to worry about the workers living out of state and commuting to their jobs at P.C.C.

And, finally, what about the inmates and their families? How easy is it going to be for a mother or wife coming from the inner city to visit a son or husband? At least in Pontiac we have access to I-55, a direct route to and from Chicago, and we also have train and bus service going both ways.

We are proud to call Pontiac our home. The people of Pontiac have

lived in peace (for the most part) with the correctional center for decades. Pontiac has been the recipient of many Governor Home Town Awards thanks to the fine citizens of our community that includes employees of the Pontiac Correctional Center.

So what is the problem? As far as we can tell, there is no problem! Do you know what they say about that?

“If it ain’t broke, don’t try to fix it!”

(This letter expresses thoughts and comments by many other concerned citizens as well as it’s writers.)



The Pantagraph/CARLOS T. MIRANDA

Pontiac residents pack the auditorium, common area and gymnasium Wednesday evening at Pontiac Township High School. The state of Illinois Commission on Government Forecasting and Accountability held a state facility closure act hearing.

With prison in limbo, developers pull plug

By Tony Sapochetti

tsapochetti@pantagraph.com

PONTIAC — A multimillion-dollar project has pulled out from developing in Pontiac.

In testimony Wednesday during a public hearing on the proposed closing of Pontiac Correctional Center, Mayor Scott McCoy said the developers pulled out because of the possibility of the prison's closing.

The project, under private discussion for a year, would have brought a hotel, home improvement warehouse, conference center and restaurant, McCoy said.

"I pitched the idea of coming to Pontiac and developing in our commercial area at Route 116 and Interstate 55," McCoy said. "They were very interested and we began working together ... in an effort to partner together to bring a large commercial development project to Pontiac."

EM Properties Ltd. of East Peoria has developed retail strips, office buildings, restaurants and hotels.

"The prison closing wasn't the only hurdle, but that pretty much iced it for us," EM Properties President Gary Matthews said Thursday. "Mainly, because it's a bit of a stretch to come up with a site like that with a community

that could lose so many jobs."

Matthews said two other factors also played a part: a land owner increased his price and some council members were reluctant about tax incentive plans.

EM wanted to develop land just east of Interstate 55 and behind Exact Packaging Inc.

"The (prison) announcement alone was the straw that broke the camel's back," McCoy said. "What's hard to think about are the long hours of work that I, the city staff, and the city council put into this project in hopes of growth for our wonderful community. What's more difficult to swallow is what Pontiac has now lost."

McCoy said the project would have spanned more than 100 acres over 10 to 20 years and brought in \$10 million to \$12 million in development work and construction for its first phase. The development could have provided hundreds of full-time and part-time jobs, he said.

Although EM Properties is not looking to develop on the site now, but Matthews said that could change.

"I wouldn't say that the site has a lot of potential, but it does have potential," he said. "There is good exposure and good accessibility ... and we would certainly revisit it if those conditions are changed."

August 20, 2008

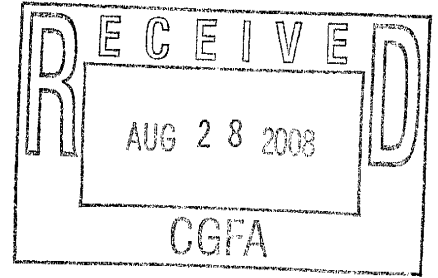
Senator Jeff Schoenberg, Co-Chairman
Representative Rich Myers, Co-Chairman
Commission on Government
Forecasting and Accountability
703 Stratton Office Building
Springfield, IL 62706

Dear Gentlemen:

By closing this facility or the threat of doing so has all ready cost the people of Pontiac more jobs then the development that has now changed their minds. What is wrong with this picture? Keep the prison open.

Sincerely,

David E. Turner




August 23, 2008
Cliff/Mary Francis
815 Cimmeron Drive
Pontiac, Illinois 61764

Senator Jeff Schoenberg
Representative Rich Myers
703 Stratton Office Building
Springfield, Illinois 62706

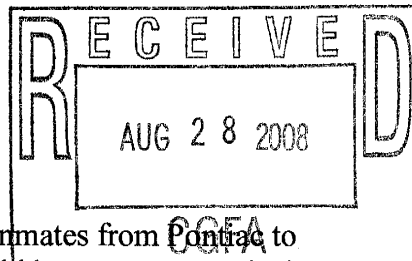
Dear Sirs,

We were out of town on Wed. 8/20/08 due to our granddaughter suddenly becoming ill with pneumonia. We definitely want you both to push hard for Pontiac Correctional Center. It will have a devastating effect on the economies of our community, the city of Pontiac and the county of Livingston. The only reasonable solution would be to transfer the over-populated segment of residency at PCC, as well as the over-populated segments of other penal institutions in the state of Illinois to the new facility at Thomson.

Sincerely,

Clifford and Mary Francis



Dear Sir,

I keep hearing DOC officials making the statements that by moving the inmates from Pontiac to Thompson that it would be safer for the staff and inmates and that it would be more economical to house these inmates there. These statements are misleading and are not accurate. The Thompson Correctional Center was designed and built to house a General Population classification of inmate. Pontiac does not house this classification of inmate. Stateville and Menard Correctional Centers do.

The Pontiac Correctional Center houses the most destructive and assultive inmates in this state. When Stateville , Menard and even Tamms can not handle an inmate they send them to us, but that is OK because we are built and have been trained to handle these types of inmates. Our prison here at Pontiac was specially redesigned to function efficiently and safely housing the five (5) classifications of inmates that we house. And it works !

Even though the Thompson Prison is state of the art, it will not make the staff and inmates safer if it is not used for the purpose it was designed for. Housing segregation, mental health and Death row inmates in a prison that was not meant to house them will be dangerous to both the staff and inmates. Housing Protective Custody inmates in a prison that may also house general population inmates in the same prison is dangerous and does not make sense either.

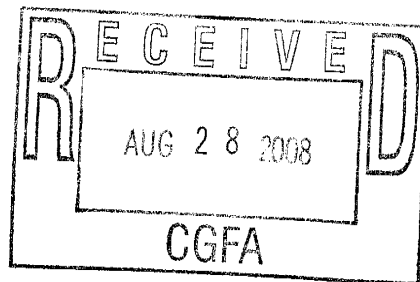
There are many more reasons I can give you as to why this move will be dangerous as well as costly, but I know your time is valuable and therefore I will bring this letter to a close. I invite you to contact me if you have any further questions that I can answer for you. I am a supervisor at the Pontiac prison with 20 yrs of experience and I have the knowledge to answer almost any question you may have pertaining to corrections.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Scott A. Punke". The signature is stylized and somewhat cursive.

Scott A. Punke
Correctional Lieutenant
Pontiac Correctional Center
(815) 842-2816 work
(309) 467-6003 Home
309) 678-5846 Cell

Senator Jeff Schoenberg
Representative Richard Myers
Commission on Government
Forecasting and Accountability
703 Stratton Office Building
Springfield, IL 62706



Dear Senator Schoenberg and Representative Myers:

First, I would like to thank you for spending five and one-half hours (plus your travel time) in Pontiac to listen to the concerns of the community on the proposed closing of Pontiac Prison.

Our family moved to Pontiac, from a rural community west of Peoria, in August 1957 when my husband accepted a teaching/coaching position at Pontiac High School. When my husband interviewed for the position, he was very pleased with the community of Pontiac, the fact that they had a Catholic grade school which our children would be able to attend and, of course, it was home to the Pontiac Holiday Tournament. When we moved, I teased him about moving us to Pontiac (the home of "the Prison") as that was all I knew about Pontiac. Our first home turned out to be located two doors from the front door of the Prison. At 11:00 on the first night in our new home, the (what I later learned was the "all clear") alarm sounded and I sat straight up in bed thinking there was a prisoner escape.

Fifty-one years later, I am still living in Pontiac. My husband passed away very unexpectedly over forty years ago, and because of the community and the many friends we had here in Pontiac, I decided to remain here and continue to raise our family of four children. They all graduated from St. Mary's Catholic Grade School and Pontiac Township High School. I now have six grandchildren who have (or will) graduate from St. Mary's and Pontiac High School.

Almost 10% of the families of St. Mary's are employed at Pontiac Prison. If the prison is to close, that would have a devastating effect on our school and church. I know it would also have a devastating effect on all of the schools in the community as well as financial havoc to businesses and "life as we have known it these past fifty years".

The city of Pontiac has been a "partner" with the State on being "home" to the Prison since 1871. I understand there are several volunteer programs in place to help the offenders adjust to society and help them succeed in the "real world" upon their release. Would these programs be duplicated if these offenders are moved to another location or would they cease to exist? Also, our location (down "55" from the Chicago area) makes it easier for many of their families to visit.

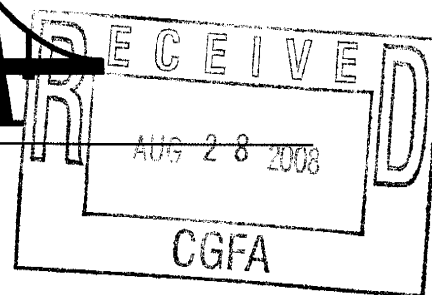
In closing, I strongly urge you to keep Pontiac Prison open! Again, I thank you for your consideration and understanding of the impact the closing would have on our community and surrounding communities.

Respectfully yours,

Joan Crowley
845 N. Moulton St. (4 blocks from the Prison)
Pontiac, IL 61764

*St. Mary's
recently
completed a
4 million dollar
expansion to
their school -
an investment
in our children
and community*
*Our Holiday
Tournament
continues as
the "oldest"
tournament
in the
state,
also*

City of Pontiac



August 22, 2008

Senator Jeff Schoenberg, Co-Chairman
Representative Rich Myers, Co-Chairman
Commission on Government Forecasting and Accountability
703 Stratton Office Building
Springfield, Illinois 62706

Scott H. McCoy
Mayor

Dear Senator Schoenberg and Representative Myers:

Please accept this letter in strong opposition of the closure of the Pontiac Correctional Center on behalf of the city of Pontiac, Illinois.

Sharon L. Dunham
Clerk

While I have completely disagreed with the closure of the Pontiac Correctional Center since the first day the Governor announced his intent to close the facility, I have waited through COGFA process and hearing to hear all sides and gather as much information as possible on this issue. Having heard all the testimony, read the letters, and met with hundreds of correctional employees, local businesses, and other local leaders, I have come to the solid conclusion that closing the Pontiac prison will have a devastating, long-term impact to the city of Pontiac and the entire state of Illinois. The impact to our community includes our local economy, local small businesses, future growth and expansion opportunities, infrastructure, health care, our local schools, our safety, and just about every aspect of life in central Illinois.

Oscar R. Kohlman
Treasurer

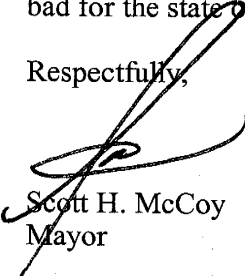
In addition, I believe the impact thrust upon the families of employees should be a major concern. Many families will be uprooted from their homes or be financially strapped to the point of financial failure. This will emotionally impact their children and their lives.

Robert M. Karls
Administrator

The city of Pontiac and the State of Illinois have been partners for 137 years. Our community has been there for the state since the opening of the facility. I ask you now to take a close look at the Department of Corrections recommendation to close the prison, see it as the incompetent idea that it is, and take any and all action to stop this from happening. It will destroy several communities within central Illinois, harm families that dedicate their lives to keeping all of us safe, and it will remove a facility that is the backbone of the correctional system within the state of Illinois. This is bad for the city of Pontiac, bad for the citizens of central Illinois, and most of all bad for the state of Illinois. This closure should not happen and must be stopped.

Alan M. Schrock
Attorney

Respectfully,

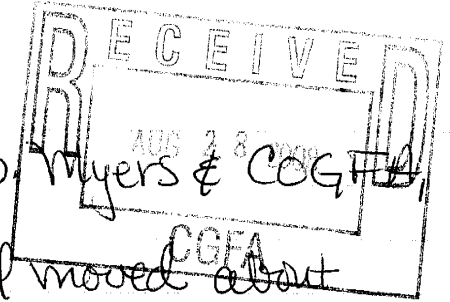

Scott H. McCoy
Mayor

SHM/dlt

wp08\sm082508

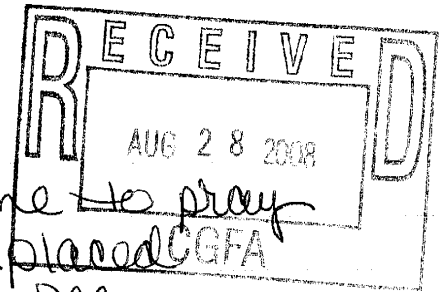
8-24-08

Dear Senator Schoenberg, Rep. Myers & CGFA



I am 43 years old. I moved about 3 years ago across from the prison. You will probably find it odd what I am about to mention. Most people here in Pontiac have probably written to you about the financial hardships for the town or families or the difficulties in relocations and losing doctors and friends. All this and much more is true and devastating. My heart and emotions are there for my community. One thing has been overlooked and never mentioned, spirituality.

God today reminded me of this. I opened my windows to let the cool breeze in and heard the prisoners singing and worshipping God. It was beautiful. They each may have their own reasons for worship time, that's for God to judge. This Sunday morning it reminded me we are all God's children and His mercy is great. These prisoners have brought me joy over the years and I will miss them. I just hope God



will keep reminding me to pray
for them and the displaced
staff when you close PCC.

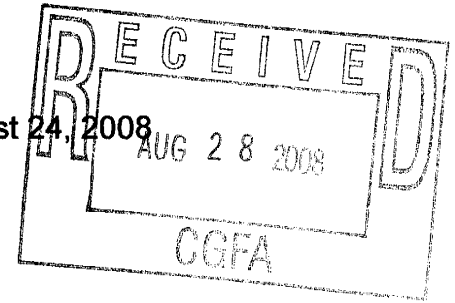
I ask the committee to be
logical and fair not only to Pontiac
but to all of Illinois. Thank
you for your time.

Sincerely,

Deborah Bromberk

Deborah Bromberk
20 W Garden Ave., #3
Pontiac, IL 61764

August 24, 2008



Senator Jeff Schoenberg and Rich Myers
Commission on Government Forecasting and Accountability
703 Stratton Office Building
Springfield, IL 62706

Dear Jeff Schoenberg and Rich Myers,

I am deeply concerned about the impact that closing Pontiac Correctional Center will have on my family and my community. The financial security we now enjoy will not be the same if PCC closes.

My husband and I have lived in Pontiac for 22 years. My husband has a job at a manufacturing plant and I am a registered nurse, with both of us working in Pontiac. I chose to live near my job at a nursing/retirement home in Pontiac. My husband grew up in Chicago, but welcomed moving to a small town. We have 4 children, the 2 younger still in Pontiac public schools.

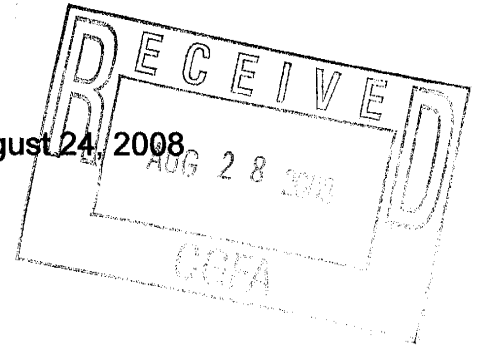
On my short 10 minute drive to work this morning I drove by 6 businesses that have already closed because of a lack of business. I fear if PCC were to close we will see many more stores go out of business. I am concerned about the overall impact closing PCC would have on our town. The nursing/retirement home I work for will be affected, and home values would drop. Crime would likely rise due to more people with financial difficulties. Some physicians would probably leave Pontiac, and new physicians may not chose to come. There would likely be fewer services offered at the hospital.

I hope that all of the above will be considered in the final decision.

Thank you

Joyce Nestor
1806 W. Bob O Link Drive
Pontiac, IL 61764

August 24, 2008



Senator Jeff Schoenberg and Rich Myers
Commission on Government Forecasting and Accountability
703 Stratton Office Building
Springfield, IL 62706

Dear Mr. Schoenberg and Mr. Myers,

During the public meeting at Pontiac Township High School on August 20, 2008 it became readily apparent that the Department of Corrections does not have all their fact and figures correct regarding closing Pontiac Correctional Center. Pontiac has a 137 year history with this Correctional Center and it would be wrong to close it now without have all the proper information before making the final decision.

I implore each of you to recommend that the decision be delayed until all the accurate facts can be established so that the best decision for the people of Illinois can be made.

Sincerely,

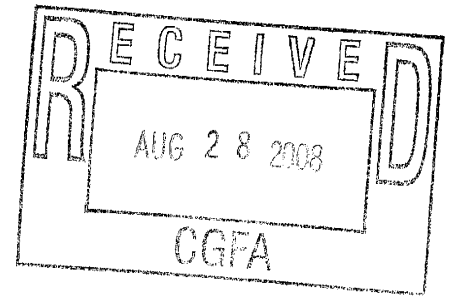
Frank Nestor

Frank Nestor
1806 W. Bob O Link Drive
Pontiac, IL 61764

August 20, 2008

Vicki S. Day
10 Smith Ln.
Pontiac, Illinois 61764

Senator Jeff Schoenberg Co-Chairman
Representative Rich Myers Co-Chairman
Commission on Government
Forecasting and Accountability
703 Stratton Office Building
Springfield, IL 62706



Dear Senator Schoenberg and Representative Myers;

My husband and I have just come home from the open hearing regarding the closing of the Pontiac Correctional Center. It was a long night for you and for all of us in Pontiac.

Tonight there were a lot of dollar figures thrown around on the cost of this and that the how much Pontiac will lose, how much the correctional system will save and the positive impact on the area around the Thompson correctional center. Three figures that were not at all addressed in the comparisons were first, an estimation of the cost to move all of these inmates around the state to their new correctional centers. This cost would have to include all the overtime of staff to complete the multiple trips. Secondly, the cost of outfitting the Thompson correctional facility was never discussed. Finally no mention was made of what was to become of the building that is currently the PCC. How will it be maintained and at what cost? These costs alone could eat up any savings the closing of Pontiac is supposed to give to the Department of Corrections budget.

With regards to the economies of the areas involved, I think overall the economy of Joliet could truly absorb the loss of income from a prison better than Pontiac because the impact would be a smaller percentage of the total economy than in a town the size of Pontiac. Statesville is an older facility like Pontiac and since it had been planned to be closed what money would now have to be spent to keep it open. Whereas, Pontiac has been maintained physically and money has already been spent that might not have had to be. The economy of our whole state cannot withstand large shifts of money at this time.

The Department of Corrections has not shown financial responsibility to the taxpayers of the State of Illinois. Their impulsive decision to change from closing the Statesville prison to the Pontiac facility is at least politically suspicious and it is terrorizing the citizens of this area. We know that our Senator has not been politically compatible with our Governor, whereas the Senator of the district of the Statesville prison is of the same political party as our Governor. Even the Governor alluded to the political strife between himself and our Senator in a conversation he had with one of our local residents at the Illinois State Fair that was reported in our local paper. What he and the Department of Corrections have forgotten is the people their party is supposed to represent, the hard workers, parents and children that they are affecting.

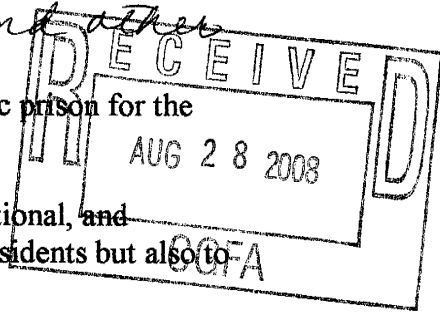
As a resident of Pontiac for 30 years I implore you to recommend to the Governor that the Pontiac Correctional Center remains open and the you as a member of the legislature do all that you can do to make this happen for the hardworking citizens of this area.

Sincerely,

8/23/08

Senator Schoenberg, Rep. Myers and other
members of the COGFA

I am writing in opposition to the Governor's proposed closing of Pontiac prison for the following reasons.



Others have already spoken better than I could about the financial, emotional, and psychological devastation this would have not only to Pontiac and its residents but also to the entire central Illinois area.

Personally, I have a niece whose husband is a guard at the prison. She was diagnosed with MS over 10 years ago. At that time, she and her husband with their newborn daughter moved from Eureka (from where he had been commuting to work) to rural Pontiac to be near her parents so they could help because of her health condition. Putting her husband's job in jeopardy with the uncertainty of his being transferred to a prison in commuting distance would be a serious detriment. Other families with similar problems would also be affected by this. This was pointed out at the hearing last Wednesday.

Though my husband is still working, I have retired and we face our future with retirement in mind. We would be among the people "left behind" if the governor follows through with his threat. That will affect the resale value of our home which is what many older people count on during their retirement years.

We would also be affected by the much reduced services that would be offered because many businesses would not be able to survive financially.

A major problem would be the possible effect of cuts to our state of the art hospital complex that was completed relatively recently. That affects not only older people such as us but also all age groups.

A group that was not represented at the hearing the other night—at least while I was there—was the inmates. Pontiac has a direct line through I-55 for many of the families to visit their resident.

In my opinion, this is a poorly and hastily thought out knee-jerk decision on the part of our Governor. I respectfully ask that you consider all the testimony that was given and recommend that Pontiac be allowed to remain open, not only for the safety and possible rehabilitation of the inmates, but also for the well-being of the employees, their families and all other people who would be adversely affected by this plan of the Governor's.

My husband joins me in this plea.

Marlene Landstrom

William Landstrom

Senator Jeff Schoenberg Co-Chairman
Representative Rich Myers Co-Chairman
Commission on Government
Forecasting and Accountability
703 Stratton Office Building
Springfield, IL 62706



Pontiac has faced many challenges so far in 2008.

1. Flood. In early January 2008, a major flood devastated the city. People struggled to get children to school because the flood was the worst on the east side of Pontiac, which is where most of Pontiac's schools are located. Innocent residents had to throw their possessions in the trash because they had been ruined in the flood. People were caught stealing the ruined possessions of others.

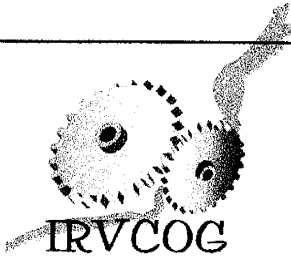
2. Less local businesses. Several buildings in Pontiac remain barren. Local businesses could and should be thriving, but many doors have been locked shut for months. There is a Pontiac business that has only been open for ten months, and last week they put up a sign saying, "50% OFF SALE/GOING OUT OF BUSINESS." It has been said that Pontiac is slowly turning into a ghost town.

3. Theft/violence increases. Security has recently become a major concern for larger businesses in Pontiac. With very few Pontiac businesses currently hiring, theft and sudden violent outbursts are occurring more than usual. Managers and business owners are taking action. This problem may soon become even more common in Pontiac.

4. The (possible) closing of Pontiac Correctional Center. "Save Pontiac Prison" has become more than a slogan for Pontiac residents. It has become a way of life for all of Livingston County and the surrounding counties. People have always stood up for what they believe in. Many have died for what they believe in. Those who truly believe in something will never give up nor be silenced. It's a fact that Pontiac is one of the largest, and therefore most productive, locations in Livingston County. We know our community, we know our businesses, we know our needs, and we know what's best and what is not best for our community. The closing of the Pontiac Correctional Center would create more distress for Livingston County than anything else and not one person in the state of Illinois would benefit from it.

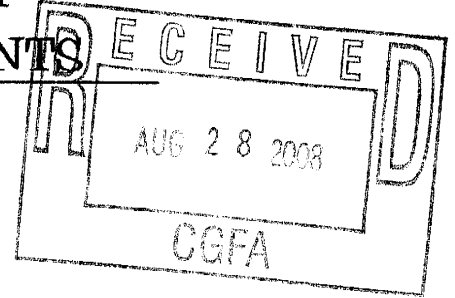
Why take a hammer to a functioning wristwatch?

Sincerely,
Mark Allen Jones
920 W. Madison St. Apt. 601
Pontiac, IL 61764
utc7373@hotmail.com



ILLINOIS RIVER VALLEY
COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS

411 Hamilton Blvd #2001 Peoria, IL - ph 309.673.9330 - f 309.673.9802



July 22, 2008

The Honorable Rod Blagojevich
Governor State of Illinois
James R. Thompson Center, Suite 16-100
100 West Randolph
Chicago IL 60601

Dear Governor Blagojevich:

We have become aware of your proposal to close the Pontiac Correctional Center. Although the Pontiac Correctional Center is not in the area covered by the Illinois River Valley Council of Governments, they employ seventy-eight (78) individuals living in the Peoria, Tazewell and Woodford area. Additionally, the prison purchases goods and services from numerous local businesses in our area.

The continued economic health and growth of rural Illinois is a vital part of the State's future. The financial impact on the municipalities and Counties affected by the closure would be devastating to the local economy. We do not support this closing and transferring over 600 jobs out of Central Illinois.

The Illinois River Valley Council of Governments Board of Directors is requesting that you reconsider your proposal to close the Pontiac Correctional Center and to take the action needed to ensure that the facility remains open.

Sincerely,

Keith Klein
Mayor, Village of Roanoke
Chairman, IRVCOG

Norman Durlinger
Mayor, Village of Morton
Vice-Chair, IRVCOG

James E. Ardis II
Mayor, City of Peoria

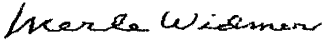
Jeffrey Zircher
Mayor, Village of Bartonville



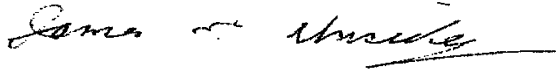
Gary Fyke
Mayor, City of Chillicothe



Hutson "Skip" Light
Limestone Township



Merle Widmer
County of Peoria



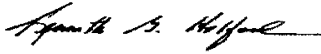
James E. Unsicker
County of Tazewell



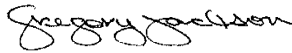
R. David Tebben
Mayor, City of Pekin



David Mingus
Mayor, City of East Peoria



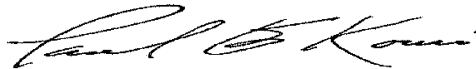
Kenneth G. Holford
Washington Township



Gregory Jackson signing for John Krug
County of Woodford

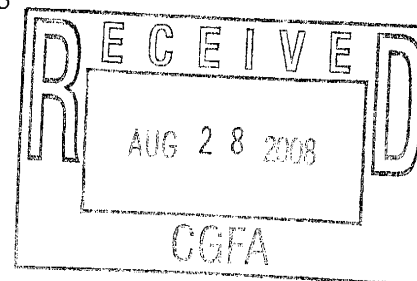


Scott Punke
Mayor, City of Eureka



Paul Kouri
Mayor, Village of Metamora

209 S. Wedgewood Lane
Carbondale, Illinois 62901
August 25, 2008



Senator Jeff Schoenberg, Cochairman
Representative Rich Myers, Cochairman
Commission on Government
Forecasting and Accountability
703 Stratton Building
Springfield, Illinois 62706

Dear Sirs:

Re: Pontiac Prison

Not many years ago, the state spent a large sum of money on the renovation of the prison in Pontiac. That money was taxpayers' money, our money. It makes no sense at all to renovate the prison at great cost only to close it a few years later. That is poor stewardship of our money.

Furthermore, transferring the prison population to a new prison and bringing that prison up to the security standards necessary to house the prisoners safely will add to the cost.

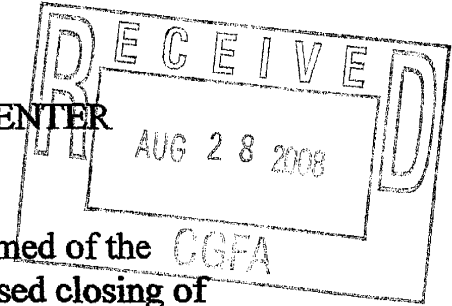
My daughter and son-in-law are residents of Pontiac. Neither of them is employed by the prison; nonetheless, their lives and the lives of all residents of Pontiac and surrounding communities will be impacted by the closing of the second-largest employer as shops, medical practices, restaurants, and other businesses close and property values decline. Municipal services will surely be cut. The quality of life in Pontiac and the surrounding area will be greatly affected.

The closing of the prison in Pontiac is a prime example of poor stewardship and governing.

Yours truly,


Ruth N. Kissell

REGARDING: CLOSING PONTIAC CORRECTIONAL CENTER



As registered voters and citizens who try to keep informed of the issues, we would like to express our concerns over the proposed closing of the Pontiac Correctional Center.

Years ago, when the state was looking for a site to build a new prison, the city of Pontiac wanted the prison to be built on land the State of Illinois already owned just south of the present day prison. However, the powers that be chose another site. Now, as inconceivable as it sounds, the state is considering closing Pontiac altogether -- at a time when there is already a problem with overcrowding in our prison system. If a place must be closed, the closing of the Roundhouse at Stateville would be (for the lack of a better phrase) a feasible economic choice. With the development and growth going on in the Joliet area, this part of the state could absorb the loss much easier than the rural community of Pontiac.

Livingston County and the city of Pontiac has not seen any significant growth in either economics or population in decades. How will the closure of Pontiac Correctional Center affect Pontiac? For one, our schools will lose the tax revenue needed to keep our schools at the level needed to prepare our students for their future. As our home values decrease (who wants to live in a town that has lost it's second largest employer?), our taxes will increase to help cover the cost of services in a county that is fourth in size and presently has a population of around 39,000 people.

Closing the prison would mean families being uprooted, (good luck in trying to sell your house!) kids would be removed from schools and friends. The biggest economic factor would be that most businesses (if not all) would suffer great losses. Some businesses will close and others will have to make some major adjustments like ordering inventory, the products and services now offered would have to be paired back, and loss of employment due to downsizing. Pontiac is the hub for employment for all of Livingston County. The prison's closing will not just effect Pontiac, but every little town and village in the entire county.

What does the state plan to do with the building and grounds once the prison closes? It will just be a matter of time before the site becomes an eye

sore! What happens to all the homes within the prison's vicinity? Who will buy a house that is located next to a huge abandoned configuration of buildings overrun with weeds? And please don't bother telling me that there is money set aside in the budget to take care of mowing and upkeep because we are all well aware of how well the budget works, or more aptly DOESN'T work!

How well prepared is the Thomson area when it comes to handling the problems a prison may bring to their area? Pontiac has the Illinois State Police Headquarters adjacent to the present prison property. The prison's location in Pontiac was one of the reasons that Pontiac has the headquarters located here. We also have a National Guard unit right here in Pontiac in case of trouble. How close is the nearest guard unit to Thomson? How long would it take for them to respond? Is the Thomson Center equipped to handle death row inmates? Where is the nearest hospital to the Thomson Center? Pontiac has a hospital within a few miles of the prison with a staff that is experienced in dealing with prisoners as patients. We also have a trained fire and rescue team that are experienced and knows the protocol involved with working within the prison atmosphere.

Does Thomson have the manpower to hire guards if not all of Pontiac's guards are willing to transfer there? If not, how much will it cost the State of Illinois to train new guards; and, do we WANT that many "new" guards with a bunch of seasoned and savvy inmates?

Where are all the new prison employees going to live? We understand housing in Thomson is limited -- how many prison guards can afford to build a new house on the salary they earn? The quad cities are close by, but that also means the possible loss of revenue to Illinois for those transferred guards to choose to live and shop in Iowa. At least here in Pontiac we don't have to worry about the workers living out of state and commuting to their jobs at P.C.C.

And, finally, what about the inmates and their families? How easy is it going to be for a mother or wife coming from the inner city to visit a son or husband? At least in Pontiac we have access to I-55, a direct route to and from Chicago, and we also have train and bus service going both ways.

We are proud to call Pontiac our home. The people of Pontiac have

lived in peace (for the most part) with the correctional center for decades. Pontiac has been the recipient of many Governor Home Town Awards thanks to the fine citizens of our community that includes employees of the Pontiac Correctional Center.

So what is the problem? As far as we can tell, there is no problem! Do you know what they say about that?

“If it ain’t broke, don’t try to fix it!”

(This letter expresses thoughts and comments by many other concerned citizens as well as it’s writers.)



The Pantagraph/CARLOS T. MIRANDA

Pontiac residents pack the auditorium, common area and gymnasium Wednesday evening at Pontiac Township High School. The state of Illinois Commission on Government Forecasting and Accountability held a state facility closure act hearing.

With prison in limbo, developers pull plug

By Tony Sapochetti

tsapochetti@pantagraph.com

PONTIAC — A multimillion-dollar project has pulled out from developing in Pontiac.

In testimony Wednesday during a public hearing on the proposed closing of Pontiac Correctional Center, Mayor Scott McCoy said the developers pulled out because of the possibility of the prison's closing.

The project, under private discussion for a year, would have brought a hotel, home improvement warehouse, conference center and restaurant, McCoy said.

"I pitched the idea of coming to Pontiac and developing in our commercial area at Route 116 and Interstate 55," McCoy said. "They were very interested and we began working together ... in an effort to partner together to bring a large commercial development project to Pontiac."

EM Properties Ltd. of East Peoria has developed retail strips, office buildings, restaurants and hotels.

"The prison closing wasn't the only hurdle, but that pretty much iced it for us," EM Properties President Gary Matthews said Thursday. "Mainly, because it's a bit of a stretch to come up with a site like that with a community

that could lose so many jobs."

Matthews said two other factors also played a part: a land owner increased his price and some council members were reluctant about tax incentive plans.

EM wanted to develop land just east of Interstate 55 and behind Exact Packaging Inc.

"The (prison) announcement alone was the straw that broke the camel's back," McCoy said. "What's hard to think about are the long hours of work that I, the city staff, and the city council put into this project in hopes of growth for our wonderful community. What's more difficult to swallow is what Pontiac has now lost."

McCoy said the project would have spanned more than 100 acres over 10 to 20 years and brought in \$10 million to \$12 million in development work and construction for its first phase. The development could have provided hundreds of full-time and part-time jobs, he said.

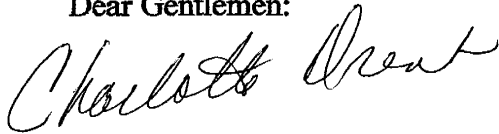
Although EM Properties is not looking to develop on the site now, but Matthews said that could change.

"I wouldn't say that the site has a lot of potential, but it does have potential," he said. "There is good exposure and good accessibility ... and we would certainly revisit it if those conditions are changed."

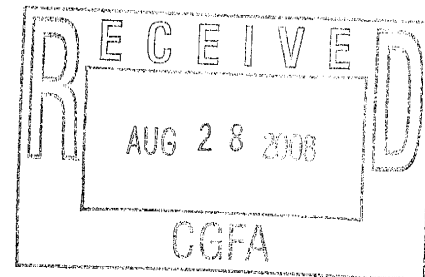
August 20, 2008

Senator Jeff Schoenberg, Co-Chairman
Representative Rich Myers, Co-Chairman
Commission on Government
Forecasting and Accountability
703 Stratton Office Building
Springfield, IL 62706

Dear Gentlemen:

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Charlotte Drent". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned below the typed salutation.

Sincerely,



August 24, 2008

Senator Jeff Schoenberg, Co-Chairman
Representative Rich Myers, Co-Chairman
Commission on Government
Forecasting and Accountability
703 Stratton Office Building
Springfield, IL 62706

Dear Senator Schoenberg and Representative Myers,

We are writing to encourage you to do whatever you can to stop the closing of Pontiac Correctional Center here in Pontiac. Doug is an optometrist who owns and operates Watson Vision Center here in downtown Pontiac. As a small business owner, his practice could be greatly affected by the closing of the prison. He cares for the vision needs of many correctional officers and their families as he is a provider on the state's insurance plan for vision care. I am a Certified Family Nurse Practitioner, employed by OSF Medical Group. I have cared for patients and their families for 19 years and I am concerned about the stress this situation is causing many of them. I am in practice with Dr. William Hough and we care for many prison-employed families. The depression, anxiety and stress this is causing them is palpable. Closing the prison would force many of our patients to relocate, and they have voiced much concern over this. A decreased number of patients utilizing the OSF Healthcare services would have quite a negative effect on healthcare in Livingston County.

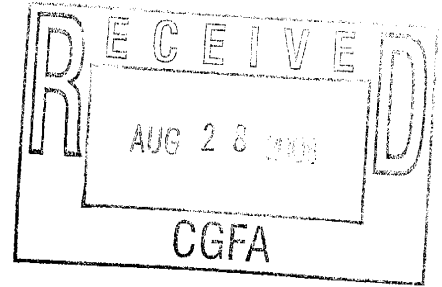
Thank you for your diligent attention to our concerns.
Sincerely,

Dr. Douglas Watson, O.D., Lisa Watson FNP-BC

Dr. Douglas Watson, OD and Lisa Watson FNP-BC

Aug. 23, 2008

Senator Jeff Schoenberg Co-Chairman
Rep. Rich Myers Co-Chairman
Commission on Government
Forecasting and Accountability
703 Stratton Office Building
Springfield, IL. 62706



Gentlemen,

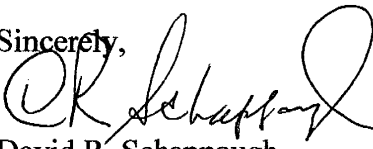
I want to thank you for the way in which the hearing on the Pontiac Correctional Center (PCC) was conducted the evening of Aug. 20, 2008. The professionalism of the Commission, those that spoke and the conduct of those citizens of Pontiac and Livingston County and beyond, was very commendable.

As I listened to Director Walker answer questions of the members of the Commission and again, as I listened to various speakers express their concerns that the PCC not be closed, I was consistently reminded of the economic impact that will occur if this closure takes place. I will not again dwell on those financial statistics because you have seen and heard them many times over.

I do have one question which I feel is a valid concern regarding the financial impact of closing the Pontiac Correctional Center. A question that I never heard asked or answered on the evening of Aug. 20 or in any newspaper articles or public discussion on this issue. My question is this, if the Governor decides to proceed with closing PCC, what happens to the facility, grounds and the upkeep of those facilities and properties? As you are aware this is a large facility, will it continue to be maintained by the State of Illinois? As you can imagine, a facility of this size can go into disrepair rather quickly. Will the facility be torn down? Will it remain and just fall down? Who will maintain the grounds, the mowing of the grass, etc.? Certainly the people of Pontiac and those residences surrounding the PCC do not want to look out their windows to an eye sore of a once thriving State Facility, providing revenue to a once growing, thriving city and county. We do not need this eye sore to remind of what once was! My question is, has the Department of Corrections given any thought to the cost of repair, maintenance or even the tearing down of such a facility as PCC. The costs could very quickly offset the savings that has been touted by closing PCC and opening the Thompson facility.

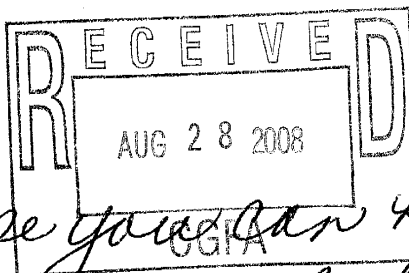
If this question has been answered and properly responded to by the Department of Corrections, then no further action is needed on my behalf, however, if this question has been not been asked or responded to I think perhaps it may have a significant impact of some of the financial numbers that have previously been submitted.

Thank you for your time and for allowing me the opportunity to express my concern.

Sincerely,

David R. Schappaugh
Resident of Pontiac, IL.

Cc: State Senator Dan Rutherford
320 N. Plum St.
Pontiac, IL. 61764

Aug 25, 2008



Dear Sirs.

I really hope you can keep the PCC open. It will be a personal hardship on our family. My son works at the Fusion and his wife has MS. Her mother moved next door to them to help her. I moved within six miles so I could help her. We have made several changes to their house to make it easy for her to get around. If the PCC closes, either her husband will have to live somewhere else, so we can help her out if they move we will all have to move. The housing market is so bad none of us will be able to sell. So please keep PCC open. Our tax dollars are for all people in Illinois not Iowa. How can we possibly close PCC open Thompson and then hire people from Iowa? We need to keep PCC open to keep Pontiac and the surrounding area from being ruined.

D. L. ... 15 Papp ...

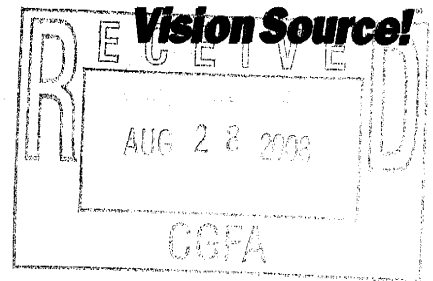


FAMILY EYE CARE

of Pontiac, LLC

The People You Need to See

REID A. PETTIT, O.D.
BRYAN M. STOLLER, O.D.



Senator Jeff Schoenberg – Co-Chairman
Representative Rich Myers – Co-Chairman
Commission on Government
Forecasting and Accountability
703 Stratton Office Building
Springfield, IL 62706

August 24, 2008

Dear Sirs:

We are writing today on behalf of our optometric practice and our staff of eleven hard-working hourly employees to voice our strong opposition to the closing of the Pontiac Correctional Center (PCC).

As a private practice, our patient base is comprised of the rank and file of a broad cross-section of area patients. A substantial percentage of these patients are employed by PCC. An unknowable percent of the rest are involved in some form of support for PCC and therefore depend on PCC for much of their livelihood.

We have heard what the numbers are in terms of the economic impact on our area. The numbers are meaningful to be sure, but what has to be visualized is what they mean in terms of how the average Pontiac area business and its employees are affected.

From our immediate area of influence, our clinic, we can say that it would be very likely that our proposed office expansion project will be scrapped. This will mean that revenue to local contractors and their employees will be lost. It also means that we will not be able to bring on a new employee or two, thereby denying a position to someone who truly needs a job. It remains to be seen whether we may have to freeze wages or even lay off a current employee if PCC closes. It doesn't need to be spelled out the chain of lost income and buying power that spiral from our situation and that of other area businesses that will be faced with the same prospects with which we are faced.

It also means that welfare ranks will swell in Pontiac and in our office as well. Tax revenues to the state will suffer accordingly with the loss of practice revenues that occur with low welfare reimbursements. A once proud, hard working community will become (as it has increasingly become in recent years due to the regional and national economic slow down) a center for welfare and between-the-cracks poverty.



FAMILY EYE CARE

of Pontiac, LLC

The People You Need to See

REID A. PETTIT, O.D.
BRYAN M. STOLLER, O.D.

Vision Source!

What was particularly powerful to us was learning that a prospective new business for Pontiac, a large employer we understand, decided not to come to Pontiac because of the possibility of PCC's closure. Will other site-seeking businesses be deterred as well? What this speaks to is the fact that PCC's closure will not only cause the immediate impact at the epicenter of Pontiac's economic well-being, but have a ripple effect that will linger for the foreseeable future. Pontiac will become a depressed area for years.

We ask that you consider the plight of a hard-working community and its good people. It doesn't have to be this way.

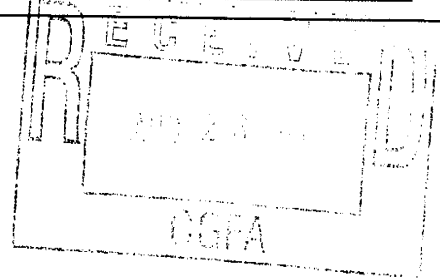
Sincerely,

The Doctors and Staff of Family Eye Care of Pontiac, LLC



AFSCME LOCAL 494 Phone: (815) 844-7188 Fax: (815) 844 - 6721 e-mail - local494@mchsi.com

August 25, 2008



Senator Jeff Schoenberg, Co-Chairman
Representative Rich Myers, Co-Chairman
Commission on Government Forecasting & Accountability
703 Stratton Office Building
Springfield, IL 62706

Dear Gentlemen:

Upon review of the hearing regarding the closure of Pontiac Correctional Center available on COGFA's website, a number of inconsistencies were found in Director Walker's testimony which were not brought to the Committee's attention during the course of the evening.

First, not all inmates at Pontiac Correctional Center are single-celled. There are approximately 446 inmates currently double-celled in Pontiac's protective custody unit. Further, the offenders housed on Pontiac's medium security unit are not single-celled.

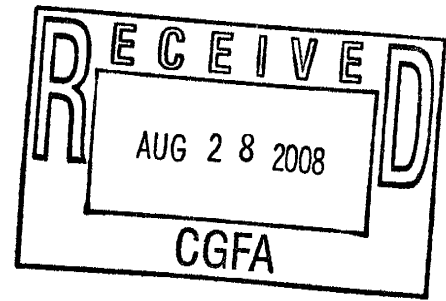
Secondly, the Director stated additional vacant beds are available at Lawrence and Sheridan Correctional Centers. Neither Lawrence nor Sheridan Correctional is a Level 1 maximum security facility. Lawrence is a Level 2 high-medium security facility. Sheridan is a Level 3 medium security facility.

Thirdly, Pontiac's FY'08 budget was \$52.5 million. According to the Department of Corrections, Pontiac was budgeted \$58.9 million for FY'09, a \$4.4 million increase. Historically, Pontiac "gives back" \$1-2 million per fiscal year.


Danny Garrett, President
Pontiac Local 494

August 24, 2008

Senator Jeff Schoenberg
Representative Rich Meyer
Commission on Government
Forecasting and Accountability
703 Stratton Office Building
Springfield, IL 62706



Dear Senator Schoenberg and Representative Rich Meyers:

I am writing to you for the third time regarding the very important topic of closing of Pontiac Prison. This letter is being sent at the very last minutes, due to the need to make sure that there is **NO** new information available to the people of Illinois that would justify the need to close this very functional correction center. I was very disappointed to hear Mayor McCoy say at the Public Hearing that the Director Roger Walker Jr was using "preliminary" information to recommend closing this facility and to further open another facility near the Iowa border.

I have grown up in Livingston County and the prison has been an important part of the state of Illinois, not just the county. In the past year, I had the opportunity to join the team at ASTA Care Center of Pontiac. The staff still laughs when I talk about the prison being our "neighbor", since they are right in our back yard. I have seen this community pull together through a recent flood that many in the community are still trying to get back into their homes. Now, the governor wants to close down a facility that employees 600 people. This community, surrounding towns, and central Illinois in general will **NOT** survive.

The decision to "look elsewhere" instead of closing Stateville continues to not make sense. The walk thru of the prison recently didn't justify this kind of action – overnight decisions are not in the best interest for the state of Illinois. As a taxpayer, I expect those elected to look at all the details before putting the citizens of Illinois at risk to further economic challenges. Following attending the Public Hearing, I am still convinced that keeping Pontiac Correctional Center open and opening Thomson with the 35 percent that the state is over capacity at this time.

My husband, Keith has worked in a factory in Chatsworth for over 25 years. The building industry is already suffering though out Livingston County, should PCC close it will not only further affect his place of employment, but the benefits that he has covering his family.

Hearing the officer of the Prison speak at the hearing about her young son and the importance of being able to stay with the health care team that was in place brought back memories of the struggles we went thru to find the "best" health care team to care for our son, whom was diagnosed with Juvenile Arthritis at the age of 2. A mother's love to watch her child in pain is put to a test that no one should have to. Our son was scheduled for surgery to remove his lower leg/foot due to a tumor/cancer, when one doctor said, "Let's do this test that is normally done on adults"...my son walks with a limp today because he

can't flex his ankle, didn't need surgery. Health care is a challenge as it is today, without having to start all over with new doctors in a new town.

I live in Forrest and our small town has seen an increase in the number of families that now use the food pantry that I volunteer at monthly. The increase is not just double, but almost 4 times the families in the past year. Many come to supplement their groceries, so they have money for gas to drive to work.

I'm sure the governor would agree with the officer from the PCC that spoke at the hearing on the importance of having family support during a family crisis. The governor has a healthy wife and children and still prefers to live in the Chicago area, over at the governor's mansion in Springfield to be near them. The day my dad called me at work crying will always be with me. The doctor had just told my parents that my mom had kidney cancer. Three months later, my mom and best friend was gone. My parent's friends were a lifesaver to our family when we couldn't be with her. Many of these prison employees have families in the area, some have moved here to help out these employees while they work.

I am privileged to work with a very special person at ASTA Care Center of Pontiac. She is not only an excellent Certified Nursing Assistant, but serves on our Passive Hospice Team. Should PCC close it could mean we would lose a very valuable employee – our Hospice residents and their families have come to rely on her special ways. You can't put a money value on what it means to find that special person that you just click with at that very trying time in their life.

ASTA Care Center of Pontiac was asked to hold a T-shirt day to draw attention to the possible closing of PCC. The Parade that grew out of the t-shirt day drew over 400 participates with 14 state and federal legislators, both Republic and Democrat – they need to work together in Springfield, since they had no problems talking and laughing together as they walked in the parade – stood shoulder to shoulder for a group picture – shared the same podium as they spoke to the crowd. The Drive thru Petition Signing was close to 900 names with over 450 signed letters to send to the commission. We had mothers with strollers, bicycles, motorcycles, cars, and fire trucks participate. This business has spent a lot of money to sponsor both the parade and drive thru petition signing. Over \$200.00 was spent on stamps alone. Many employees volunteered their time to assist us take over 30 residents, many in wheelchairs uptown for the Saturday morning Community Picture Shoot. Thirteen residents asked us to take them to the hearing; one was a retired employee of PCC. This community is aware that should PCC close, it will affect everyone from the schools to the elderly...employees to employers...small to large business...and the list goes on...

Think of the words in John Montgomery's song – "Life's a Dance" – sometimes you lead, sometimes you follow...if you fall, pick yourself up, since life's a dance you learn as you go. Please take the time to explore all the options and help you make the right decision...KEEP PONTIAC PRISON OPEN, since the impact on the community way out weighs the money that may be saved by the state.

Thank you for your time and I pray that you and the governor make the right decision not only for the Pontiac, but also for the whole state of Illinois...KEEP PONTIAC PRISON OPEN.

Sincerely,

Sue Rinckenberger

Sue Rinckenberger

Certified Dietary Manager - ASTA Care Center of Pontiac

Citizen of Livingston County for almost 50 years

ABC ♥ 123 ☺ XYZ

9-2-08

Dear Sen. Schoenberg,

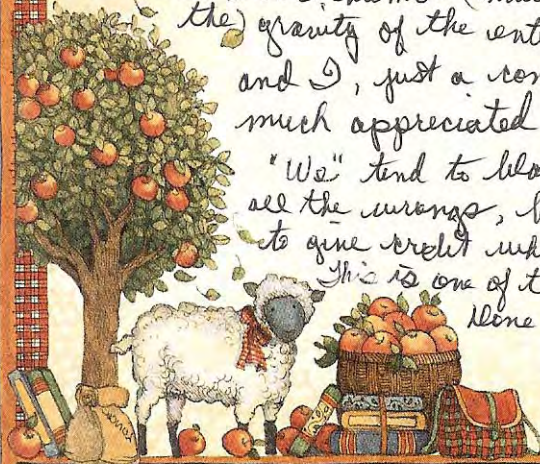
I wish to thank you, your co-chair and your staff for the hearing you conducted recently in Portiac regarding the possible closing of the prison. First, it had to be re-scheduled which probably caused some inconvenience, then, too, it was an evening meeting, so when it was finally over and I walked the couple blocks to my home, you folks all had several hours driving time yet.

you and your committee members, were attentive, respectful, caring, asked insightful questions, you in particular, showed some humor (much needed - given the gravity of the entire situation) and I, just a common citizen, very much appreciated your efforts.

"We" tend to blame "Springfield" for all the wrongs, but are less likely to give credit when it is due.

This is one of those times - Well done. Thank you.

Sincerely,
Susan Michel



ABC ♥ 123 ☺ XYZ

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

DISTRICT OFFICE:
2600 DEKALB AVE, SUITE C
SYCAMORE, IL 60178
815-748-3494
815-748-4630-FAX
WEBSITE
www.pritchardstaterep.com



SPRINGFIELD OFFICE:
200 - 3N STRATTON OFFICE BUILDING
SPRINGFIELD, IL 62706
217-782-0425
217-782-1275 FAX

ROBERT W. PRITCHARD
STATE REPRESENTATIVE • 70TH DISTRICT



August 26, 2008

Senator Jeff Schoenberg Co-Chairman
Representative Rich Myers Co-Chairman
Commission on Government
Forecasting and Accountability
703 Stratton Office Building
Springfield, IL 62706

Dear Commissioners:

I oppose the governor's plan to close the Pontiac Correctional Center and ask that the Commission on Government Forecasting and Accountability's final recommendation advise the governor against abrupt closure of the Pontiac prison. As you know, the State of Illinois currently faces many challenges. Yet the Pontiac Correctional Center should not be held hostage in the state's ongoing budget battle or used as a pawn to pass a capital construction plan.

Furthermore, I strongly endorse the formation of an independent review panel to perform a comprehensive study to address potential prison closures; the effect and feasibility of such closures on the Illinois correctional system; and the impact upon the region where the relevant prison is located. A wide-ranging study of the state's correctional facilities and needs should be completed before such a significant closure is approved.

Recently, your commission held a hearing attended by nearly 2,000 of our fellow citizens. I urge the commission to vigilantly consider the testimony and research collected at this hearing.

The Illinois Department of Corrections is at 135 percent of capacity. The opening of the Thomson Correctional Center was to relieve this pressure not to replace pre-existing prison facilities. In addition, the closing of the prison would result in a direct loss of 570 jobs and a loss of \$45 million in economic activity in the region. The facility has been a part of Pontiac for over 130 years and is its second largest local employer. This is the wrong time to close the Pontiac Correctional Center.

I appreciate your time and consideration in this important matter.

Sincerely,

Robert W. Pritchard

August 6, 2008



Senator Jeff Schoenberg - Co-Chairman
Representative Rich Meyers - Co-Chairman
Commission on Government
Forecasting and Accountability
703 Stratton Office Building
Springfield, Il 62706

Dear Senator Schoenberg and Representative Meyers:

Gentleman lets not make a hasty decision of closing Pontiac Prison, by just looking at the one time figures and as it is stated facts. As our elected officials taking the time to thoroughly look into this would be greatly appreciated. The closing of the prison would impact central Illinois in a very negative matter. I reside in Livingston County and my home value will drop, business will close, schools will suffer and unemployment will rise. My neighbors have been good employees for the State and serve the prison well. It would be a shame to make 600 or more people turn their lives upside down. I am asking as a citizen of Illinois that you take much more time to investigate this situation and leave Pontiac Prison open.

Sincerely,

Bernard Kahn

August 6, 2008

Senator Jeff Schoenberg - Co-Chairman
Representative Rich Meyers - Co-Chairman
Commission on Government
Forecasting and Accountability
703 Stratton Office Building
Springfield, Il 62706



Dear Senator Schoenberg and Representative Meyers:

Gentleman lets not make a hasty decision of closing Pontiac Prison, by just looking at the one time figures and as it is stated facts. As our elected officials taking the time to thoroughly look into this would be greatly appreciated. The closing of the prison would impact central Illinois in a very negative matter. I reside in Livingston County and my home value will drop, business will close, schools will suffer and unemployment will rise. My neighbors have been good employees for the State and serve the prison well. It would be a shame to make 600 or more people turn their lives upside down. I am asking as a citizen of Illinois that you take much more time to investigate this situation and leave Pontiac Prison open.

Sincerely,

Sharon Kening

August 6, 2008



Senator Jeff Schoenberg - Co-Chairman
Representative Rich Meyers - Co-Chairman
Commission on Government
Forecasting and Accountability
703 Stratton Office Building
Springfield, Il 62706

Dear Senator Schoenberg and Representative Meyers:

Gentleman lets not make a hasty decision of closing Pontiac Prison, by just looking at the one time figures and as it is stated facts. As our elected officials taking the time to thoroughly look into this would be greatly appreciated. The closing of the prison would impact central Illinois in a very negative matter. I reside in Livingston County and my home value will drop, business will close, schools will suffer and unemployment will rise. My neighbors have been good employees for the State and serve the prison well. It would be a shame to make 600 or more people turn their lives upside down. I am asking as a citizen of Illinois that you take much more time to investigate this situation and leave Pontiac Prison open.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Karen J. Ferguson". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, prominent initial "K".

August 6, 2008



Senator Jeff Schoenberg - Co-Chairman
Representative Rich Meyers - Co-Chairman
Commission on Government
Forecasting and Accountability
703 Stratton Office Building
Springfield, Il 62706

Dear Senator Schoenberg and Representative Meyers:

Gentleman lets not make a hasty decision of closing Pontiac Prison, by just looking at the one time figures and as it is stated facts. As our elected officials taking the time to thoroughly look into this would be greatly appreciated. The closing of the prison would impact central Illinois in a very negative matter. I reside in Livingston County and my home value will drop, business will close, schools will suffer and unemployment will rise. My neighbors have been good employees for the State and serve the prison well. It would be a shame to make 600 or more people turn their lives upside down. I am asking as a citizen of Illinois that you take much more time to investigate this situation and leave Pontiac Prison open.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Connie Friedman". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.



August 6, 2008

Senator Jeff Schoenberg - Co-Chairman
Representative Rich Meyers - Co-Chairman
Commission on Government
Forecasting and Accountability
703 Stratton Office Building
Springfield, Il 62706

Dear Senator Schoenberg and Representative Meyers:

Gentleman lets not make a hasty decision of closing Pontiac Prison, by just looking at the one time figures and as it is stated facts. As our elected officials taking the time to thoroughly look into this would be greatly appreciated. The closing of the prison would impact central Illinois in a very negative matter. I reside in Livingston County and my home value will drop, business will close, schools will suffer and unemployment will rise. My neighbors have been good employees for the State and serve the prison well. It would be a shame to make 600 or more people turn their lives upside down. I am asking as a citizen of Illinois that you take much more time to investigate this situation and leave Pontiac Prison open.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Dan Howard". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, prominent "D" and "H".

August 6, 2008



Senator Jeff Schoenberg - Co-Chairman
Representative Rich Meyers - Co-Chairman
Commission on Government
Forecasting and Accountability
703 Stratton Office Building
Springfield, Il 62706

Dear Senator Schoenberg and Representative Meyers:

Gentleman lets not make a hasty decision of closing Pontiac Prison, by just looking at the one time figures and as it is stated facts. As our elected officials taking the time to thoroughly look into this would be greatly appreciated. The closing of the prison would impact central Illinois in a very negative matter. I reside in Livingston County and my home value will drop, business will close, schools will suffer and unemployment will rise. My neighbors have been good employees for the State and serve the prison well. It would be a shame to make 600 or more people turn their lives upside down. I am asking as a citizen of Illinois that you take much more time to investigate this situation and leave Pontiac Prison open.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Donna Stehler". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, looped "D" at the beginning.

August 6, 2008



Senator Jeff Schoenberg - Co-Chairman
Representative Rich Meyers - Co-Chairman
Commission on Government
Forecasting and Accountability
703 Stratton Office Building
Springfield, Il 62706

Dear Senator Schoenberg and Representative Meyers:

Gentleman lets not make a hasty decision of closing Pontiac Prison, by just looking at the one time figures and as it is stated facts. As our elected officials taking the time to thoroughly look into this would be greatly appreciated. The closing of the prison would impact central Illinois in a very negative matter. I reside in Livingston County and my home value will drop, business will close, schools will suffer and unemployment will rise. My neighbors have been good employees for the State and serve the prison well. It would be a shame to make 600 or more people turn their lives upside down. I am asking as a citizen of Illinois that you take much more time to investigate this situation and leave Pontiac Prison open.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Rich Meyers". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, looping flourish at the end.

August 6, 2008



Senator Jeff Schoenberg - Co-Chairman
Representative Rich Meyers - Co-Chairman
Commission on Government
Forecasting and Accountability
703 Stratton Office Building
Springfield, IL 62706

Dear Senator Schoenberg and Representative Meyers:

Gentleman lets not make a hasty decision of closing Pontiac Prison, by just looking at the one time figures and as it is stated facts. As our elected officials taking the time to thoroughly look into this would be greatly appreciated. The closing of the prison would impact central Illinois in a very negative matter. I reside in Livingston County and my home value will drop, business will close, schools will suffer and unemployment will rise. My neighbors have been good employees for the State and serve the prison well. It would be a shame to make 600 or more people turn their lives upside down. I am asking as a citizen of Illinois that you take much more time to investigate this situation and leave Pontiac Prison open.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Patty Stone".

August 6, 2008

Senator Jeff Schoenberg - Co-Chairman
Representative Rich Meyers - Co-Chairman
Commission on Government
Forecasting and Accountability
703 Stratton Office Building
Springfield, Il 62706



Dear Senator Schoenberg and Representative Meyers:

Gentleman lets not make a hasty decision of closing Pontiac Prison, by just looking at the one time figures and as it is stated facts. As our elected officials taking the time to thoroughly look into this would be greatly appreciated. The closing of the prison would impact central Illinois in a very negative matter. I reside in Livingston County and my home value will drop, business will close, schools will suffer and unemployment will rise. My neighbors have been good employees for the State and serve the prison well. It would be a shame to make 600 or more people turn their lives upside down. I am asking as a citizen of Illinois that you take much more time to investigate this situation and leave Pontiac Prison open.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Lynn Stovall". The signature is written in a cursive style with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

August 6, 2008

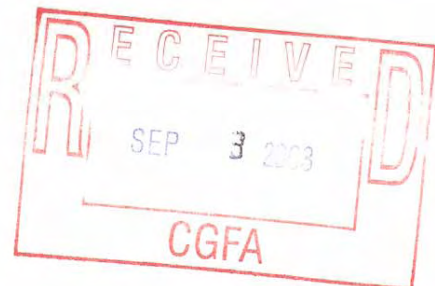
Senator Jeff Schoenberg - Co-Chairman
Representative Rich Meyers - Co-Chairman
Commission on Government
Forecasting and Accountability
703 Stratton Office Building
Springfield, IL 62706

Dear Senator Schoenberg and Representative Meyers:

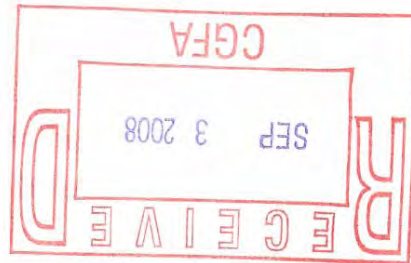
Please re-consider this issue of closing Pontiac Prison. By now you have seen a lot of effort go into trying to make this not happen. The area towns surrounding the prison have taken many steps to show their support to keeping the prison open. The towns have signs, people adorning tee-shirts, they held a parade with a lot of support, a town picture was taken, many meetings have been held and a lot of praying is being done. We need the Pontiac Prison to remain open. The facts have not proven beyond a reasonable doubt that it should close. Please take the time, with out all of the options and make the right decision. Keep PONTIAC PRISON open.

Sincerely,

Charles Wesselhoff



August 6, 2008



Senator Jeff Schoenberg - Co-Chairman
Representative Rich Meyers - Co-Chairman
Commission on Government
Forecasting and Accountability
703 Stratton Office Building
Springfield, IL 62706

Dear Senator Schoenberg and Representative Meyers:

Gentlemen please do not make a hasty decision of closing Pontiac Prison, by just looking at the one time figures and as it is stated facts. As our elected officials taking the time to thoroughly look into this would be greatly appreciated. The closing of the prison would impact central Illinois in a very negative matter. I reside in Livingston County and my home value will drop, business will close, schools will suffer and unemployment will rise. My neighbors have been good employees for the State and serve the prison well. It would be a shame to make 600 or more people turn their lives upside down. I am asking as a citizen of Illinois that you take much more time to investigate this situation and leave Pontiac Prison open.

Sincerely,

Kristina Meyer

Kristina Meyer

August 6, 2008



Senator Jeff Schoenberg - Co-Chairman
Representative Rich Meyers - Co-Chairman
Commission on Government
Forecasting and Accountability
703 Stratton Office Building
Springfield, Il 62706

Dear Senator Schoenberg and Representative Meyers:

Gentleman lets not make a hasty decision of closing Pontiac Prison, by just looking at the one time figures and as it is stated facts. As our elected officials taking the time to thoroughly look into this would be greatly appreciated. The closing of the prison would impact central Illinois in a very negative matter. I reside in Livingston County and my home value will drop, business will close, schools will suffer and unemployment will rise. My neighbors have been good employees for the State and serve the prison well. It would be a shame to make 600 or more people turn their lives upside down. I am asking as a citizen of Illinois that you take much more time to investigate this situation and leave Pontiac Prison open.

Sincerely,

Maria L. Worell-Jumper