

## Letters from Opponents



# Dan Rutherford

State Senator • 53rd District

**District Office:**

320 N. Plum St.  
Pontiac, IL 61764  
815/842-3632

Toll Free: 866/866-4053

Fax: 815/842-2875

**Capitol Office:**

105-B Capitol Building  
Springfield, IL 62706  
217/782-6597

Fax: 217/782-0116

E-mail: [danrutherford@danrutherford.com](mailto:danrutherford@danrutherford.com)

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July 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:

Since the Illinois Department of Corrections announced the possible closing of Pontiac Correction Center (PCC) I have received numerous letters and resolutions to keep PCC open. I am forwarding these letters to you during the Public Comment period.

I would like to make these documents part of the public record opposing the closure of PCC. I think the message conveyed by these letters and resolutions will help you understand the devastating impact closing PCC will have on Livingston County and the surround area.

If I can be of any assistance, please contact me.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Dan Rutherford".

Dan Rutherford  
State Senator

Cc: Representative Shane Cultra  
Representative Keith Sommer

**Pontiac Correctional Center**  
**Child Abuse Analysis**  
**Submitted by Scott C. Schaefer, M.A.**

A significant oversight has been made by Governor Blagojevich and Department of Corrections Director Walker. No where have the two gentleman mentioned or discussed the impact the closure of Pontiac Correctional Center could have on employee's children when it pertains to child abuse and neglect.

Parenting can be challenging and the demands can be overwhelming at times for some. When you add additional stress in to lives of individuals whose future employment is uncertain, this can be overwhelming as well. One of the common variables that often contributes to children becoming abused and neglected is stress. Webster's dictionary defines stress as pressure; mental or physical tension.

The stress of loosing one's job and no longer having an income to support your family can be unbearable to handle. One must learn to adjust to the life style change appropriately and quickly before stress overtakes their life. Without having healthy ways to relieve the stress (i.e. exercise, relaxation techniques) a person's body can become almost a virtual "pressure cooker".

Not all stress is bad stress. Stress is an important learning tool for our mental health growth. If one was never to experience stress, one would never be able to handle new and challenging experiences. When the pressure in one's life becomes unusually intense one's mental and physical health could easily become altered. How a person reacts to their altered mental health state is what makes the difference.

When a person's routine, income, lifestyle, and or future becomes uncertain an individual's stress level has the potential to increase. One could end up making decisions in their life that they previously would have never made. Some examples could be:

1. Leaving their children home alone due to not being able to afford daycare. This could impose a risk of the children becoming seriously injured or harmed.
2. A parent that use to use time outs for a form of punishment are now resorting to excessive corporal punishment (i.e. spanking/slapping that leaves marks or creates an injury).
3. Excessive consumption of alcoholic beverages, utilizing illegal street drugs, and/or abusing prescription medication. These vices individually or combined could lead to the potential of a parent abusing and/or neglecting their children.

For the fiscal year of 2007, in Livingston County there were a total of 577 reported cases of child abuse and/or neglect made to the Illinois Department of Children and Family Services. This number is too high and no one wants to see it increase. Common sense indicates that if approximately 200 Pontiac Correctional Center staff members are laid off work and remain in Livingston County or the neighboring counties and are unemployed, the likelihood of their being an increase in child abuse and neglect would be immense.

Dear Governor Blagojevich:

On behalf of the 16 Mayors of Livingston County, I would like to personally thank you and the Department of Corrections on recent announcements that Pontiac Correctional Center will be spared in the upcoming budget.

Undoubtedly you know that the economic impact of such a closing would be devastating, not only to our local county communities, but to all of central Illinois as well. With nearly 250 of the PCC employees residing in Livingston County, and each and every incorporated community and non-incorporated areas affected, the loss of not only the jobs provided but the loss of spouses and children would have a serious adverse affect on our local economies, tax base, residential market, and school systems. Adding in an additional 350 jobs in the central Illinois area, and you can see the widespread affect such a closing could have.

With the recent announcement from DOC, I would now like to ask you to consider seeking an official announcement from DOC that would rescind the earlier notice of closure that would effectively shut down the current COGFA process. Since the announcement, we have seen our residential home market stall in different areas, and sales receipts slow as well. Such an announcement will undoubtedly put at ease many minds that are affected and can allow our communities to go back to their normal routines knowing that the jobs are secure and that our local economies may again attain pre-announcement stability & growth.

Respectfully,

Mike Stoecklin  
Mayor  
Village of Saunemin  
President  
Livingston County Mayors Association

JUL 18 2008

WHEREAS: Pontiac Correctional Center is an integral part of the Livingston County economy, providing 600 jobs and purchasing goods and services from numerous local businesses; and

WHEREAS: The Illinois Department of Corrections has announced its intention to close Pontiac CC, which would result in the loss of those 600 jobs and have a ripple effect on the economy of all of Livingston County, and

WHEREAS: The IDOC has not presented any credible rationale for the closure, having told elected officials just days before the announced closure that Pontiac CC would remain open; and

WHEREAS: IDOC is only planning to open 800 new beds at another facility to accommodate the 1,600 inmates who would be moved out, thus greatly intensifying dangerous overcrowding throughout the prison system; and

WHEREAS: Pontiac CC is the only maximum security facility to single cell most inmates. In fact Director Walker, in a letter announcing the closure, wrote: "The nature of our population at the Pontiac facility – segregation, mental health, and protective custody – calls for single-celling the majority of inmates"; and

WHEREAS: IDOC's closure plan calls for sending 200 Pontiac inmates to Stateville CC, which has very little single-cell capacity; and

WHEREAS: IDOC's closure plan also calls for sending an additional 200 Pontiac inmates to Pinckneyville CC, which has very little single-cell capacity and is not a maximum security facility; and

WHEREAS: Putting the inmates Director Walker describes in the general population at Stateville CC and Pinckneyville CC will place them, other inmates, and staff at risk; and

WHEREAS: IDOC claims that Pontiac CC is in disrepair and would require extensive and costly repairs, but has produced no evidence in support of this claim; and

WHEREAS: In reality, significant repairs have already been made at Pontiac CC in recent years and it is in sound condition; and

WHEREAS: IDOC makes no claim that there will be significant cost savings from the Pontiac CC closure; and

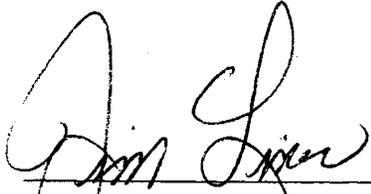
WHEREAS: Closing Pontiac CC would require hundreds of employees to move to distant parts of the state—far from their families—or to lose their jobs altogether; and

WHEREAS: The jobs provided at Pontiac CC pay fair wages and benefits, bringing greater economic stability to the communities in Livingston County where its employees reside.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED: That City of Minonk 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; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED: That City of Minonk calls on the Illinois General Assembly to adopt a budget that maintains full operation of Pontiac CC and to take whatever legislative action is needed to ensure that the facility is not closed; and

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED: That a copy of this resolution be sent to Governor Blagojevich, Senate President Emil Jones, House Speaker Michael Madigan, House Minority Leader Tom Cross, Senate Minority Leader Frank Watson and all legislators in the Pontiac CC vicinity.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jim Liner", written over a horizontal line.

Jim Liner, City Clerk  
City of Minonk

RESOLUTION  
No. 2008- 36

JUL 9 REC'D

WHEREAS, the Governor Blagojevich has announced his intention to close Pontiac Correctional Center, which would result in the loss of 600 jobs and have a ripple effect on the economy of all of Livingston County as well as many neighboring counties; and

WHEREAS, the Pontiac Correctional Center is an integral part of the Livingston County economy, providing 600 jobs and purchasing goods and services from numerous local businesses; and

WHEREAS, the Illinois Department of Corrections has not presented any credible rationale for the closure, having told elected officials just days before the announced closure that Pontiac Correctional Center would remain open; and

WHEREAS, the closure ignores the overcrowding within all of the current State of Illinois Correctional Facilities; and

WHEREAS, extensive repairs have been completed at Pontiac Correctional Center in recent years and it is in good sound condition and there will not be significant cost savings from the closure.

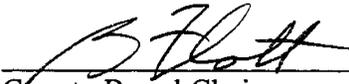
NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Livingston County Board is in opposition to the Illinois Department of Corrections planned closure of Pontiac Correctional Center and calls upon Governor Blagojevich to halt all plans to close the facility; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Livingston County Board recommends the decision to close a correctional facility within the State of Illinois be done only after studies have determined the financial viability and economic impact of doing so; and

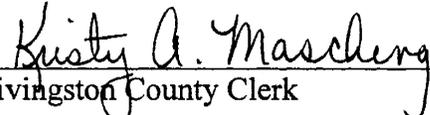
BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED that a copy of this resolution be sent to Governor Blagojevich, Senate President Emil Jones, House Speaker Michael Madigan, House Minority

Leader Tom Cross, Senate Minority Leader Frank Watson and all legislators in the Pontiac Correctional Center vicinity.

Passed by roll call vote this 12<sup>th</sup> day of June, 2008.

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
County Board Chairman

Attest:

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Livingston County Clerk

Ayes: 23

Nays: 0

Abstain: 0

Absent: 1

JUN 19 2008

**Pontiac Correctional Center**  
**Resolution of the**  
**Livingston County Farm Bureau Board of Directors**  
**Pontiac, Illinois**  
**June 17, 2008**

**Policy Statement:** The members of the Livingston County Farm Bureau Board support the Pontiac Correctional Center.

**Explanation:** Closure of the Pontiac Correctional Center will negatively impact the economic health and growth of greater Livingston County. The correctional center provides 600 jobs and purchases a significant amount of goods and services from area businesses and organizations. Closing the center would jeopardize not only Pontiac, but many surrounding towns and counties. While PCC employees will be offered the opportunity to move to new jobs at other correctional facilities, the negative impact to Livingston County's economy will continue to harm remaining residents and business owners.

**WHEREAS:** The Pontiac Correctional Center is an integral part of the Livingston County economy, providing 600 jobs and purchasing goods and services from numerous local and regional organizations, including businesses owned by Livingston County Farm Bureau members.

**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 Livingston County Farm Bureau Board of Directors affirms its opposition to the Illinois Department of Corrections planned closure of the Pontiac Correctional Center and calls for Governor Blagojevich to stop all plans to close the facility.

Pontiac Correctional Center

Resolution of the  
Livingston County Farm Bureau Board of Directors

June 17, 2008

Signature Page

Name

Address

<del>Shelly Houn</del>	<del>8043 E. 1800 North Rd Grayndale IL 61743</del>
<del>Joseph L. Dale</del>	<del>6482 N 2800 E Rd Forrest, IL 61741</del>
<del>Randy [Signature]</del>	<del>11874 N 2600 E Rd Forrest, IL 61741</del>
Ronald Jenkins	6071 E 2550 N RD Streator, IL 61364
Brenda Collins	13216 N. 600 E. Rd. Flanagan, IL 61740
Matt Kilgus	6778 N. 2150 E. Rd Fairbury, IL 61739
Ken Ehlert	210 E CLEVELAND ST COLLAM IL 60929
Rosie Duffy	17450 N 1200 E Rd Pontiac IL 61764
Craig Swick	29587 E 2100 N Rd Emington IL 60934
Jarvis E. Harms	850 E. 2000 N. Rd. Flanagan IL 61740
Donald [Signature]	4 W. Meadow Ln Pontiac IL 61764
Danni Haab	9588 N 2700 E Forrest IL 61741

**LOUIS LYONS**  
*Pontiac Township Supervisor*  
320 W. Madison St., Box 224  
Pontiac, IL 61764  
(815) 844-6682

June 12, 2008

JUN 12 2008

Governor Rod Blagojevich  
207 State House  
Springfield, IL 62706

Dear Governor Blagojevich,

As the Pontiac Township Supervisor, a position I have held since 1969, I feel I have a pretty good feel for the economic condition of the people of Pontiac Township and Livingston County.

We are seeing more and more people lining up for food at the food pantries here in Pontiac and Livingston County.

We have more people every day applying for Township Assistance.

Closing the Pontiac Correctional Center will have a devastating effect on the people of this area. From all of the things I have read, seen on TV and in conversations with the employees of the Pontiac Correctional Center, I have yet to see one positive benefit to anyone for closing this facility.

I would like to have you or one of your staff respond to me.

Awaiting your reply,



Louis Lyons  
Supervisor

cc: Senator Emil Jones  
Senator Frank Watson  
Senator Dan Rutherford  
Representative Michael Madigan  
Representative Tom Cross  
Representative Shane Cultra  
Representative Keith Sommer

WHEREAS: Pontiac Correctional Center is an integral part of the Livingston County economy, providing 600 jobs and purchasing goods and services from numerous local businesses; and

WHEREAS: The Illinois Department of Corrections has announced its intention to close Pontiac CC, which would result in the loss of those 600 jobs and have a ripple effect on the economy of all of Livingston County, and

WHEREAS: The IDOC has not presented any credible rationale for the closure, having told elected officials just days before the announced closure that Pontiac CC would remain open; and

WHEREAS: IDOC is only planning to open 800 new beds at another facility to accommodate the 1,600 inmates who would be moved out, thus greatly intensifying dangerous overcrowding throughout the prison system; and

WHEREAS: Pontiac CC is the only maximum security facility to single cell most inmates. In fact Director Walker, in a letter announcing the closure, wrote: "The nature of our population at the Pontiac facility – segregation, mental health, and protective custody – calls for single-celling the majority of inmates"; and

WHEREAS: IDOC's closure plan calls for sending 200 Pontiac inmates to Stateville CC, which has very little single-cell capacity; and

WHEREAS: IDOC's closure plan also calls for sending an additional 200 Pontiac inmates to Pinckneyville CC, which has very little single-cell capacity and is not a maximum security facility; and

WHEREAS: Putting the inmates Director Walker describes in the general population at Stateville CC and Pinckneyville CC will place them, other inmates, and staff at risk; and

WHEREAS: IDOC claims that Pontiac CC is in disrepair and would require extensive and costly repairs, but has produced no evidence in support of this claim; and

WHEREAS: In reality, significant repairs have already been made at Pontiac CC in recent years and it is in sound condition; and

WHEREAS: IDOC makes no claim that there will be significant cost savings from the Pontiac CC closure; and

WHEREAS: Closing Pontiac CC would require hundreds of employees to move to distant parts of the state—far from their families—or to lose their jobs altogether; and

WHEREAS: The jobs provided at Pontiac CC pay fair wages and benefits, bringing greater economic stability to the communities in Livingston County where its employees reside.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED: That Pontiac Township 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; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED: That Pontiac Township calls on the Illinois General Assembly to adopt a budget that maintains full operation of Pontiac CC and to take whatever legislative action is needed to ensure that the facility is not closed; and

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED: That a copy of this resolution be sent to Governor Blagojevich, Senate President Emil Jones, House Speaker Michael Madigan, House Minority Leader Tom Cross, Senate Minority Leader Frank Watson and all legislators in the Pontiac CC vicinity.

Approved this 9th day of June, 2008 by the Pontiac Township Board of Trustees.

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Louis Lyons, Supervisor  
Pontiac Township

RESOLUTION #~~R008~~- R2008-23

RESOLUTION TO OPPOSE THE CLOSING OF PONTIAC PRISON

WHEREAS, there is a possibility that the Governor of the State of Illinois will call for the closing of the Illinois Department of Corrections at Pontiac, Livingston County, Illinois, and

WHEREAS, the Iroquois County Board joins with the citizens of Livingston County in protesting the closing of the prison at Pontiac.

NOW, THEREFORE, IT BE AND IS HEREBY RESOLVED that the People of Iroquois County, Illinois, do hereby oppose the closing of the Illinois Department of Corrections at Pontiac, Livingston County, Illinois.

DATED: July 13, 2008, 2008.



RON SCHROEDER, Chairman of the Iroquois County Board

ATTEST:

  
MARK HENRICHS, County Clerk

20 Ayes 0 Nays

4 absent



STATE OF ILLINOIS )  
 ) SS.  
COUNTY OF WOODFORD )

WOODFORD COUNTY BOARD

May 20, 2008

**RESOLUTION # 2007/08 - 069**

**RESOLUTION OPPOSING THE CLOSING OF  
THE PONTIAC STATE CORRECTIONAL CENTER**

**WHEREAS**, the Pontiac State Correctional Center has been a vital part of Central Illinois since 1871 when it first opened as a boy's reformatory and has had a significant role in region's economic well-being; and

**WHEREAS**, the employees of and families of this institution shop in our stores, dine in our restaurants and contribute to the property tax base; and

**WHEREAS**, the closing of the Pontiac State Correctional Center could potentially add a significant portion of these 550 hard working and dedicated public servants to the unemployment rolls; and

**WHEREAS**, nearly 10% of the Pontiac State Correctional Center's employees and their families call Woodford County home to include 8 in Eureka, 6 in El Paso, 1 in Kappa, 4 in Roanoke, 25 in Minonk, 3 in Secor, 4 in Washburn, and 2 in Metamora; and

**WHEREAS**, it is unfathomable that some in state government would declare these employees, their personal and their professional contributions to the region disposable with this arbitrary proposal to close the Center; and

**WHEREAS**, the Woodford County Board believes the fate of institution must not be taken lightly and must be done with the adequate due diligence required.

**WHEREAS**, the impact on these families and those they touch cannot be disregarded; and

**WHEREAS**, our region, the region known as the Heart of Illinois is not bound by geographic lines but instead by shared values, desires, concerns and most of all compassion; and



**THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, the Woodford County Board believes it is incumbent upon the elected officials and the citizens of this great county to stand side by side, firm in resolve with our neighbors, in opposition to the closing of the Pontiac State Correctional Center; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that the Woodford County Board implores Governor Blagojevich to exercise reason and responsibility when further deliberating on this issue, and that he and his staff welcome and encourage input from the Central Illinois General Assembly delegation; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that a certified copy of this resolution be forwarded to Governor Rod Blagojevich, the members of the Central Illinois General Assembly delegation, Illinois Department of Corrections Director Roger E. Walker, Jr., Pontiac State Correctional Center Warden Eddie Jones, and Eureka Mayor Scott Punke to be presented to the employees of the Pontiac State Correctional Center showing Woodford County's unwavering support.

**PASSED AND ADOPTED** by the Woodford County Board, this 20<sup>th</sup> day of May 2008, by the following roll call vote:

**ATTEST:**

Handwritten signature of Debbie Harms in cursive.

Debbie Harms  
Clerk of the Woodford County Board

Handwritten signature of John Krug in cursive.

John Krug  
Chairman of Woodford County Board



MAY 21 2008

CITY OF EUREKA  
128 N. MAIN ST. PHONE 467-2113  
EUREKA, ILLINOIS 61530

May 20, 2008

Senator Dan Rutherford  
320 N. Plum Street  
Pontiac, IL 61764

Dear Senator Dan Rutherford,

Mayor Punke has asked to have the enclosed resolution forwarded to you. The City is again asking you to support the continuation of the operation of the Pontiac Correctional Center. The continued economic health and growth of this area would be adversely affected by this closure and we support the efforts to keep this facility open.

Sincerely,

Anne L. Sandvik  
Administrator

Resolution - 08-05

**A RESOLUTION BY THE CITY OF EUREKA, WOODFORD COUNTY, ILLINOIS,  
SUPPORTING THE CONTINUATION OF THE OPERATION OF THE  
PONTIAC CORRECTIONAL CENTER**

WHEREAS, the Illinois Department of Corrections and Governor Blagojevich have announced the closure of the Pontiac Correctional Center in Central Illinois; and

WHEREAS, the Pontiac Correctional Center is an integral part of the Central Illinois area economy, providing 600 jobs and the purchase of goods and services from numerous local businesses; and

WHEREAS, the Illinois Department of Corrections has announced the closure of the Pontiac Correctional Center without presenting a credible rational reason for the closure. The Illinois Department of Corrections did, prior to the announcement, inform the elected officials that the Pontiac Correctional Center would remain open;

WHEREAS, the Illinois Department of Correction's reasoning for the closure due to disrepair and significant cost savings have not been substantiated with supporting evidence; and

WHEREAS, the Illinois Department of Corrections has not demonstrated the transfer of the maximum security prisoners from a single-cell prison to a facility which is not classified as maximum security and not equipped to provide a safe environment for inmates and staff; and

WHEREAS, the closure would have a significant impact on hundreds of employees and their families, with relocating away from their communities or the loss of employment creating a destructive effect on their families, their future, and ultimately the communities in which they live; and

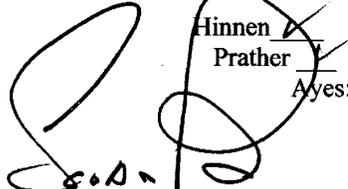
WHEREAS, the financial impact on the municipalities and Counties affected by the closure of the Pontiac Correctional Center would be devastating to the local economy. The continuation of this facility remains a critical need for the region; and

WHEREAS, the City of Eureka affirms its opposition to the Illinois Department of Correction's planned closure of the Pontiac Correctional Center and calls on Governor Blagojevich to halt all plans to close the facility; and

WHEREAS, the continued economic health and growth of rural Illinois is a vital part of the State's future. At the local level the significance of this closure is immeasurable and we ask our representatives to support keeping the Pontiac Correctional Center open; and

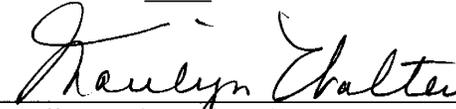
THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the City of Eureka in concert with the communities and the County governmental bodies in the area urge our area representative in the Illinois General Assembly to adopt a budget that maintains full operation of the Pontiac Correctional Center and to take whatever legislative action is needed to ensure that the facility remains open; and

PASSED AND APPROVED this 19 day of May 2008 by Eureka City Council, Eureka Illinois, Woodford County.

	Hinnen ✓ Prather ✓	Waters ✓ Zeltwanger ✓	Meares ✓ Kupfer ✓	Hinthorne ✓ Punke ✓
Ayes: <u>8</u>	Nays: <u>0</u>	Absent: <u>0</u>		

Scott Punke, Mayor

Attest:

  
Marilyn Walter, City Clerk

JUN 19 2008

# TOWNSHIP OF ODELL

*Office of Supervisor*

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ODELL, ILLINOIS 60460

June 17, 2008

Senator Dan Rutherford  
320 N. Plum Street  
Pontiac, IL 61764

Greetings:

At the June 9, 2008 regular meeting of the Odell Township Board of Trustees a resolution was adopted in opposition of the closing of Pontiac Correctional Center. A copy of that resolution is enclosed. We respectfully ask that you support us in preventing the closing of the prison in Pontiac.

Yours truly,



Robert Legner, Township Supervisor

**WHEREAS:** The Illinois Department of Corrections has announced its intention to close Pontiac Correctional Center which would result in the loss of those 600 jobs and have a ripple effect on the economy of all of Livingston County; and

**WHEREAS:** IDOC claims that Pontiac CC is in disrepair and would require extensive and costly repairs, but has produced no evidence to support this claim; and

**WHEREAS:** That in recent years significant repairs have been made at Pontiac CC and presently it is in good physical condition; and

**WHEREAS:** IDOC is not saying there will be significantly lower operating costs by closing Pontiac CC; and

**WHEREAS:** Closing Pontiac CC would result in hundreds of employees to move to other parts of the state, would cause family upheavals and/or loss of jobs; and

**WHEREAS:** Keeping Pontiac CC open would continue the fair wages paid with benefits and also contribute to the continued economic stability already present in the communities in Livingston County where most of the employees reside; and

**THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED:** That the Odell Township Supervisor and Board of Trustees affirms its strong opposition to the Illinois Department of Corrections planned closure of Pontiac Correctional Center and calls on Governor Blagojevich to halt all plans to close the facility; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED:** That the Odell Township Supervisor and Board of Trustees calls on the Illinois General Assembly to adopt a budget that maintains full operation of the Pontiac Correctional Center and to take whatever legislative action that is necessary to ensure that the facility is not closed; and

**BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED:** That a copy of this resolution be sent to Governor Blagojevich, Senate President Emil Jones, House Speaker Michael Madigan, House Minority Leader Tom Cross, Senate Minority Leader Frank Watson and all legislators in the Pontiac Correctional Center's vicinity.

# Village Of Odell

# COPY

**President**

Tony Noonan

**Clerk**

Iris Thorne

**Treasurer**

Jim Rebholz

**Attorney**

Ed Legner

213 S Front St  
Odell, IL 60460

Phone: 815-998-2133

Fax: 815-998-2277

ithorne@mchsi.com

**Board Of Trustees**

Brian Verdun

Jamie Johnson

Hermie Fearman

Matt Weaver

Harvey Grieff

Brian Mills

JUN 23 2008

June 19, 2008

Governor Rod Blagojevich  
James R. Thompson Center  
100 W. Randolph Street, Ste. 16-100  
Chicago, IL 60601

RE: Proposed Pontiac Correctional Center Closing

Governor Rod Blagojevich,

Please find enclosed with this letter a copy of a Resolution passed by the Odell Village Board of Trustees on June 9, 2008 opposing the proposed closure of the Pontiac Correctional Center. The Village of Odell is a small community located in a rural area where many residents depend on the Pontiac Correctional Center for employment.

The loss of this facility would be devastating to our community and rural area, where the residents and businesses are already suffering due to the economic impact of the oil crisis. We ask for your help, empathy, and support when considering this proposal.

Respectfully yours,



Tony Noonan  
Mayor  
Village of Odell

Enclosure (1)

TN/it

RESOLUTION OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES

OF THE VILLAGE OF ODELL  
LIVINGSTON COUNTY, ILLINOIS

This Resolution adopted by the Board of Trustees of the Village of Odell this 9th day of June, 2008.

WHEREAS, the Board of Trustees of the Village of Odell has considered the impact of the proposed closure of the Pontiac Correctional Center; and,

WHEREAS, the residents of the Village of Odell depend upon outside employment; and,

WHEREAS, the Pontiac Correctional Center is a major employer in and about our community; and,

WHEREAS, the potential loss of jobs in and about the community; the consequent economic impact on the residents, local businesses and the municipality would be far reaching and devastating; and,

WHEREAS, it is appropriate that this manifestation opposing the closure of the Pontiac Correctional Center be officially recognized in the form of a resolution adopted by the Board of Trustees and made a part of the public records of this body.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Board of Trustees of the Village of Odell that the Village of Odell, by and through its Board of Trustees, that it is imperative to the welfare and continued well-being of the residents of the Village of Odell, Livingston County, Illinois, that the Pontiac Correctional Center remain open, and accordingly, the Board of Trustees strongly opposes the proposed closure thereof.

PASSED by the President and Board of Trustees of the Village of Odell, Illinois, this 9th day of June, 2008.

AYES 5

NAYS 0

ABSTENTIONS 1

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
President of the  
Village of Odell

ATTEST:

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Clerk of the Village of Odell

JUN 13 2008



JO ANN CARRETTO  
JUN 13 2008  
COUNTY CLERK

June 11th, 2008

Senator Rutherford  
320 North Plum  
Pontiac, Illinois 62706

Dear Mr. Rutherford:

Enclosed is Resolution # 08-89 stating that LaSalle County calls on the Illinois General Assembly to adopt a budget that maintains full operation of Pontiac Correction Center and to take whatever legislative action is needed to ensure that the facility is not closed.

If you have any questions in regard to this matter, do not hesitate to contact this office at 815-434-8206.

Respectfully,

JoAnn Carretto  
LaSalle County Clerk

JMC/mm

Enc:

Cc:



**JoANN CARRETTO  
LASALLE COUNTY CLERK**

STATE OF ILLINOIS )  
 ) SS.  
COUNTY OF LASALLE )

**CERTIFICATE OF COPY**

I, JoANN CARRETTO , County Clerk and Ex Officio Clerk of the LaSalle County Board within and for said County and State aforesaid, do hereby certify the foregoing to be a true and complete copy of a Resolution approved by the LaSalle County Board of LaSalle County on the 9<sup>TH</sup> day of JUNE, A.D., 2008.

The original of which has been recorded in the Official Proceedings of the LaSalle County Board of LaSalle County and that I am the legal custodian of the same.

IN TESTIMONY WHEREOF, I have hereunto subscribed my hand and fixed the seal of said County, at my office in the City of Ottawa, Illinois, this JUNE 9<sup>TH</sup>, 2008.



*JoAnn Carretto*

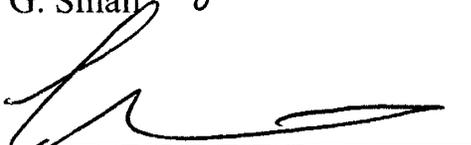
County Clerk and Ex Officio Clerk of the  
LaSalle County Board

(LASALLE COUNTY SEAL)

We, the undersigned members of the County Development  
Committee, do hereby recommend to the LaSalle County Board for approval  
of the attached Resolution.

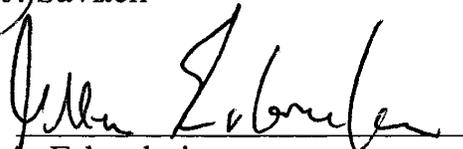
\_\_\_\_\_  
A. Piecha, Chairman

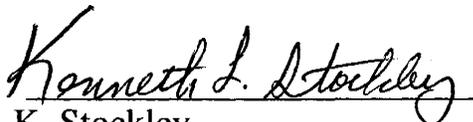
  
\_\_\_\_\_  
G. Small

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
T. Ganiere

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
D. Jordan

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
J. Savitch

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
A. Erbrederis

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
K. Stockley

## RESOLUTION

(#08-89)

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

**WHEREAS**, the Illinois Department of Corrections has announced its intention to close Pontiac CC, which would result in the loss of those 600 jobs and have a ripple effect on surrounding towns and counties, and

**WHEREAS**, the IDOC has not presented any credible rationale for the closure, having told elected officials just days before the announced closure that Pontiac CC would remain open; and

**WHEREAS**, IDOC is only planning to open 800 new beds at another facility to accommodate the 1,600 inmates who would be moved out, thus greatly intensifying dangerous overcrowding throughout the prison system; and

**WHEREAS**, Pontiac CC is the only maximum security facility to single cell most inmates. In fact Director Walker, in a letter announcing the closure, wrote: "The nature of our population at the Pontiac facility – segregation, mental health, and protective custody – calls for single-celling the majority of inmates"; and

**WHEREAS**, IDOC's closure plan calls for sending 200 Pontiac inmates to Stateville CC, which has very little single-cell capacity; and

**WHEREAS**, IDOC's closure plan also calls for sending an additional 200 Pontiac inmates to Pinckneyville CC, which has very little single-cell capacity and is not a maximum security facility; and

**WHEREAS**, putting the inmates Director Walker describes in the general population at Stateville CC and Pinckneyville CC will place them, other inmates, and staff at risk; and

**WHEREAS**, IDOC claims that Pontiac CC is in disrepair and would require extensive and costly repairs, but has produced no evidence in support of this claim; and

**WHEREAS**, in reality, significant repairs have already been made at Pontiac CC in recent years and it is in sound condition; and

**WHEREAS**, IDOC makes no claim that there will be significant cost savings from the Pontiac CC closure; and

**WHEREAS**, closing Pontiac CC would require hundreds of employees to move to distant parts of the state—far from their families—or to lose their jobs altogether; and

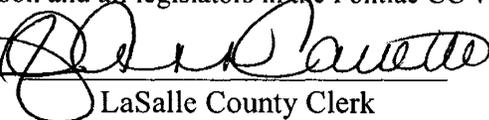
**WHEREAS**, the jobs provided at Pontiac CC pay fair wages and benefits, bringing greater economic stability to area communities where its employees reside.

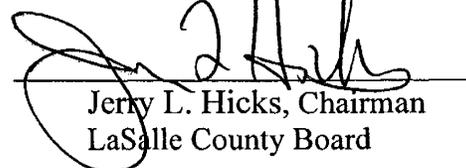
**THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED**, that the County of LaSalle affirms its opposition to the Illinois Department of Corrections' planned closure of the Pontiac Correctional Center and calls on Governor Blagojevich to halt all plans to close the facility; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that the County of LaSalle calls on the Illinois General Assembly to adopt a budget that maintains full operation of Pontiac CC and to take whatever legislative action is needed to ensure that the facility is not closed; and

**BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED**, that a copy of this resolution be sent to Governor Blagojevich, Senate President Emil Jones, House Speaker Michael Madigan, House Minority Leader Tom Cross, Senate Minority Leader Frank Watson and all legislators in the Pontiac CC vicinity.

ATTEST:

  
LaSalle County Clerk

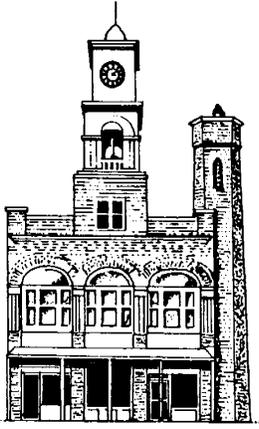
  
Jerry L. Hicks, Chairman  
LaSalle County Board

**DATED:** June 9, 2008

res PontiacCorrectional Support

JUN 4 8 REC'D

16 June 2008



# CITY OF PAXTON

CITY HALL  
145 SOUTH MARKET STREET  
PAXTON, IL 60957  
PHONE: (217) 379-4022  
WATER DEPARTMENT: (217) 379-2425  
FAX NO: (217) 379-2027

J. WILLIAM INGOLD

*Mayor*

PENNY STEVENS

*Clerk*

JULIE BURGESS

*Comptroller/Treasurer*

ROBERT E. MARTENSEN

*Attorney*

## ALDERMEN

First Ward

*William Goben*

*Justin Bouse*

Second Ward

*Delbert Bruens, Jr.*

*Rick Wolfe*

Third Ward

*Gary Van Gordon*

*William Wylie*

Fourth Ward

*Emory Alred*

*Dan Beppler*

RANDY HAACK

*Supt. of Water/Wastewater*

RANDY SWAN

*Supt. of Streets/Alleys*

ROBERT G. BANE

*Chief of Police*

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

WHEREAS: The Illinois Department of Corrections has announced its intentions to close Pontiac CC, which would result in the loss of those 600 jobs and have a ripple effect on surrounding towns and counties, and

WHEREAS: The IDOC has not presented any credible rationale for the closure, having told elected officials just days before the announced closure that Pontiac CC would remain open, and

WHEREAS: IDOC is only planning to open 800 new beds at another facility to accommodate the 1600 inmates who would be moved out, thus greatly intensifying dangerous overcrowding throughout the prison system and,

WHEREAS: Pontiac CC is the only maximum security facility to single cell most inmates. In fact Director Walker, in a letter announcing the closure, wrote: "The nature of our population at the Pontiac facility- segregation, mental health and protective custody-calls for single celling the majority of inmates". and,

WHEREAS: IDOC's closure plan calls for sending 200 Pontiac inmates to Stateville CC, which has very little single-cell capacity, and,

WHEREAS: IDOC's closure plan also calls for sending an additional 200 Pontiac inmates to Pinckneyville CC, which has very little single-cell capacity and is not a maximum security facility, and

WHEREAS: Putting the inmates Director Walker describes in the general population at Stateville CC and Pinckneyville CC will place them, other inmates and staff at risk, and

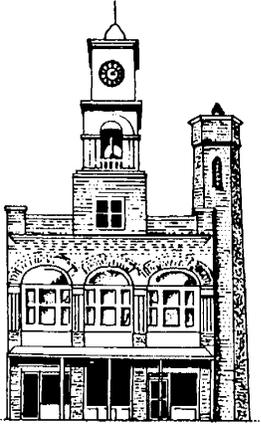
WHEREAS: IDOC claims that Pontiac CC is in disrepair and would require extensive and costly repairs but has produced no evidence in support of this claim , and

WHEREAS: In reality, significant repairs have already been made at Pontiac CC in recent years and it is in sound condition, and

WHEREAS: IDOC makes no claim that there will be significant cost savings From the Pontiac CC closure, and

WHEREAS: Closing Pontiac CC would require hundreds of employees to move to distant parts of the state- far from their families-or to lose their jobs altogether, and

WHEREAS: The jobs provided at Pontiac CC pay fair wages and benefits, bringing greater economic stability to area communities where it's employees reside.



---

# CITY OF PAXTON

---

CITY HALL  
145 SOUTH MARKET STREET  
PAXTON, IL 60957  
PHONE: (217) 379-4022  
WATER DEPARTMENT: (217) 379-2425  
FAX NO: (217) 379-2027

---

J. WILLIAM INGOLD  
*Mayor*  
PENNY STEVENS  
*Clerk*  
JULIE BURGESS  
*Comptroller/Treasurer*  
ROBERT E. MARTENSEN  
*Attorney*

ALDERMEN  
First Ward  
*William Goben*  
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*Delbert Bruens, Jr.*  
*Rick Wolfe*  
Third Ward  
*Gary Van Gordon*  
*William Wylie*  
Fourth Ward  
*Emory Alred*  
*Dan Bepler*

RANDY HAACK  
*Supt. of Water/Wastewater*  
RANDY SWAN  
*Supt. of Streets/Alleys*  
ROBERT G. BANE  
*Chief of Police*

**THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED:** That the City of Paxton, Illinois 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, and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED:** That the City of Paxton, Illinois calls on the Illinois General Assembly to adopt a budget that maintains full operation of Pontiac CC and to take whatever legislative action is needed to ensure that the facility is not closed, and

**BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED:** That a copy of this resolution be sent to Governor Blagojevich, Senate President Emil Jones, House Speaker Michael Madigan, House Minority Leader Tom Cross, Senate Minority Leader Frank Watson and all legislators in the Pontiac CC vicinity.

Respectfully submitted

J William Ingold  
Mayor , City of Paxton, Illinois

DISTRICT OFFICE  
1355A STATE ROUTE 127  
GREENVILLE, ILLINOIS 62246  
PHONE: 618/664-9108  
FAX: 618/664-9112



JUN 25 2008

DISTRICT OFFICE  
101 SO. MAIN STREET-SUITE LL2  
DECATUR, ILLINOIS 62523  
PHONE: 217/428-4068  
FAX: 217/428-4089

**ILLINOIS STATE SENATE**  
**FRANK C. WATSON**  
**STATE SENATOR**  
**51ST SENATE DISTRICT**

SPRINGFIELD OFFICE  
309A STATE HOUSE  
SPRINGFIELD, ILLINOIS 62706  
PHONE: 217/782-5755  
FAX: 217/782-7818

June 24, 2008

Honorable Keith R. Klein  
Mayor  
Village of Roanoke  
101 North Main Street  
Roanoke, Illinois 61561

Dear Mayor Klein:

Thank you very much for the copy of the Village's Resolution, I appreciate hearing your area's concerns about the Governor's announced closing of the Pontiac Correctional Center.

Vandalia – which is in my district – and I went through this four years ago. It's amazing to me how the Governor can make a statement and the ripple effect it can have on the community and surrounding area is not taken into consideration.

Pontiac was also mentioned four years ago if you recall, and Senator Dan Rutherford stepped up and did yeoman work with the entire Senate to make sure Pontiac and Vandalia did not close. He's doing the same thing this time. I have discussed this issue with him on several occasions and will assist him in any way I can.

Once again, thank you for sharing your concerns.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Frank Watson".

Frank Watson  
Senate Republican Leader

FCW:njb

xc: Senator Dan Rutherford



**Village of Roanoke**

101 N. Main Street  
Roanoke, IL 61561

Resolution No. 2008-04

**A RESOLUTION BY THE VILLAGE OF ROANOKE, WOODFORD COUNTY, ILLINOIS,  
SUPPORTS KEEPING PONTIAC CORRECTIONAL CENTER FULLY OPERATIONAL**

WHEREAS, the Illinois Department of Corrections and Governor Blagojevich have announced the closure of the Pontiac Correctional Center in Central Illinois; and

WHEREAS, the Pontiac Correctional Center is an integral part of the Central Illinois area economy, providing 600 jobs and the purchase of goods and services from numerous local businesses; and

WHEREAS, the Illinois Department of Corrections has announced the closure of the Pontiac Correctional Center without presenting a credible rational reason for the closure. The Illinois Department of Corrections did, prior to the announcement, inform the elected officials that the Pontiac Correctional Center would remain open;

WHEREAS, the Illinois Department of Correction's reasoning for the closure due to disrepair and significant cost savings have not been substantiated with supporting evidence; and

WHEREAS, the Illinois Department of Corrections has not demonstrated the transfer of the maximum security prisoners from a single-cell prison to a facility which is not classified as maximum security and not equipped to provide a safe environment for inmates and staff; and

WHEREAS, the closure would have a significant impact on hundreds of employees and their families, with relocating away from their communities or the loss of employment creating a destructive effect on their families, their future, and ultimately the communities in which they live; and

WHEREAS, the financial impact on the municipalities and Counties affected by the closure of the Pontiac Correctional Center would be devastating to the local economy. The continuation of this facility remains a critical need for the region; and

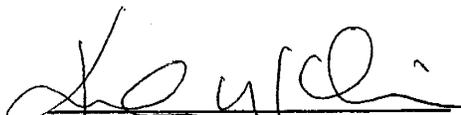
WHEREAS, the Village of Roanoke affirms its opposition to the Illinois Department of Correction's planned closure of the Pontiac Correctional Center and calls on Governor Blagojevich to halt all plans to close the facility; and

WHEREAS, the continued economic health and growth of rural Illinois is a vital part of the State's future. At the local level the significance of this closure is immeasurable and we ask our representatives to support keeping the Pontiac Correctional Center open; and

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Village of Roanoke in concert with the communities and the County governmental bodies in the area urge our area representative in the Illinois General Assembly

to adopt a budget that maintains full operation of the Pontiac Correctional Center and to take whatever legislative action is needed to ensure that the facility remains open; and

PASSED AND APPROVED this 16<sup>th</sup> day of June 2008 by Roanoke Village Board, Roanoke, Illinois, Woodford County.

  
Keith R. Klein, Mayor

Attest:

  
Susan K. Bachman, Village Clerk

## LIVINGSTON COUNTY MENTAL HEALTH BOARD

---

P.O. BOX 504 \* 310 EAST TORRANCE AVENUE \* PONTIAC, IL 61764  
CAROL FLESSNER, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR \* 815-844-7708 \* FAX 815-844-7712

May 27, 2008

Governor Rod Blagojevich  
James R. Thompson Center  
100 W. Randolph Street, Suite 16-100  
Chicago, IL 60601

Dear Governor Blagojevich,

On behalf of the Livingston County Mental Health Board, I am writing to express our grave concerns in regard to your proposed closure of the Pontiac Correctional Center. This facility has been an important part of the economy of Livingston County and the surrounding counties for many years. Being a native of Livingston County and growing up in Pontiac, I can personally attest to the role the prison plays in providing jobs and economic stability for this area.

Livingston County is facing tough economic times with Homeshield Manufacturing in Chatsworth, IL, closing one of its facilities and Interlake Manufacturing in Pontiac, IL, laying off all of its third shift. These represent a significant number of lost jobs that will negatively impact many families and their quality of life. Closure of the Pontiac Prison would further damage the weak economy of this county and place increased demands on the social service agencies serving the county's citizens.

It is the sincere hope of our board that you reconsider plans to close the Pontiac Correctional Center and focus on the serious, damaging repercussions it would have for the employees and their families who depend on this employment for their livelihood.

Sincerely,



Carol J. Flessner  
Executive Director

# **LIVINGSTON COUNTY MENTAL HEALTH BOARD**

P.O. BOX 504 \* 310 EAST TORRANCE AVENUE \* PONTIAC, IL 61764  
CAROL FLESSNER, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR \* 815-844-7708 \* FAX 815-844-7712

## **Resolution**

**WHEREAS:** Pontiac Correctional Center is an integral part of the Livingston County economy, providing 600 jobs and purchasing goods and services from numerous local businesses; and

**WHEREAS:** The Illinois Department of Corrections has announced its intention to close Pontiac CC, which would result in the loss of those 600 jobs and have a ripple effect on the economy of all Livingston County, and

**WHEREAS:** The IDOC has not presented any credible rationale for the closure, having told elected officials just days before the announced closure that Pontiac CC would remain open; and

**WHEREAS:** IDOC is only planning to open 800 new beds at another facility to accommodate the 1,600 inmates who would be moved out, thus greatly intensifying the dangerous overcrowding throughout the prison system; and

**WHEREAS:** Pontiac CC is the only maximum security facility to single cell most inmates. In fact Director Walker, in a letter announcing the closure, wrote: "The nature of our population at the Pontiac facility – segregation, mental health, and protective custody – calls for single-celling the majority of inmates"; and

**WHEREAS:** IDOC's closure plan calls for sending 200 Pontiac inmates to Stateville CC, which has very little single-cell capacity; and

**WHEREAS:** IDOC's closure plan also calls for sending an additional 200 Pontiac inmates to Pinckneyville CC, which has very little single-cell capacity and is not a maximum security facility; and

**WHEREAS:** Putting the inmates Director Walker describes in the general population at Stateville CC and Pinckneyville CC will place them, other inmates, and staff at risk; and

**WHEREAS:** IDOC claims that Pontiac CC is in disrepair and would require extensive and costly repairs, but has produced no evidence in support of this claim; and

**WHEREAS:** In reality, significant repairs have already been made at Pontiac CC in recent years and it is in sound condition; and

**LIVINGSTON COUNTY MENTAL HEALTH BOARD**

P.O. BOX 504 \* 310 EAST TORRANCE AVENUE \* PONTIAC, IL 61764  
CAROL FLESSNER, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR \* 815-844-7708 \* FAX 815-844-7712

WHEREAS: IDOC makes no claim that there will be significant cost savings from the Pontiac CC closure; and

WHEREAS: Closing Pontiac CC would require hundreds of employees to move to distant parts of the state—far from their families—or to lose their jobs altogether; and

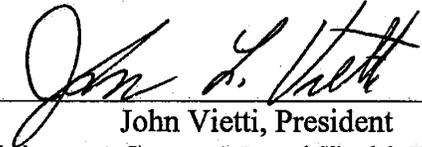
WHEREAS: The jobs provided at Pontiac CC pay fair wages and benefits, bringing greater economic stability to the communities in Livingston County where its employees reside.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED: That the Livingston County Mental Health Board 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; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED: That the Livingston County Mental Health Board calls on the Illinois General Assembly to adopt a budget that maintains full operation of Pontiac CC and to take whatever legislative action is needed to ensure that the facility is not closed; and

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED: That a copy of this resolution be sent to Governor Blagojevich, Senate President Emil Jones, House Speaker Michael Madigan, House Minority Leader Tom Cross, Senate Minority Leader Frank Watson and all legislators in the Pontiac CC vicinity.

May 27, 2008  
Date

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
John Vietti, President  
Livingston County Mental Health Board

MAY 30 2008

**Streator**  
**...We Believe**

STREATOR AREA  
CHAMBER of COMMERCE

May 28, 2008

Mr. Roger Walker, Director  
Illinois Department of Corrections  
1301 Concordia Court  
P.O. Box 19277  
Springfield, IL 62794-9277

Dear Mr. Walker:

On behalf of the Board of Directors of the Streator Area Chamber of Commerce and Industry, I am writing to express our opposition to the announced plan to close the Pontiac Correctional Center.

This facility is a major primary employer not only to the Pontiac area but also to the greater region, including Streator and our surrounding environs. We are deeply concerned that the closure of the Pontiac Correctional Center will have a significant negative economic impact on our area.

To that end, we are urging all state officials to reevaluate the closure of this facility. Pontiac Correction Center has served our state well for several decades. With your assistance, it can continue for years to come.

Sincerely,



Mike Neuenkirchen  
Executive Director

Cc: Office of Governor Rod R. Blagojevich  
Representative Frank Mautino  
Representative Keith Sommer  
Representative Shane Cultra  
Senator Dan Rutherford  
Senator Gary Dahl  
Ms. Cheri Lambert, Pontiac Chamber of Commerce  
Mayor Scott McCoy, City of Pontiac  
Mayor Raymond Schmitt, City of Streator

320 East Main Street • P.O. Box 360 • Streator, IL 61364 • 815-672-2921

Fax: 815-672-1768 • Email: [sacci@mchsi.com](mailto:sacci@mchsi.com) • [www.streatorchamber.com](http://www.streatorchamber.com)



## 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.

### **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.**

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

5/23/08

# ***Livingston County Commission on Children and Youth***

310 EAST TORRANCE AVENUE • P.O. BOX 504 • PONTIAC, IL 61764 • (815) 844-7708 • FAX (815) 844-7712

## **Resolution**

WHEREAS: Pontiac Correctional Center is an integral part of the Livingston County economy, providing 600 jobs and purchasing goods and services from numerous local businesses; and

WHEREAS: The Illinois Department of Corrections has announced its intention to close Pontiac CC, which would result in the loss of those 600 jobs and have a ripple effect on the economy of all Livingston County, and

WHEREAS: The IDOC has not presented any credible rationale for the closure, having told elected officials just days before the announced closure that Pontiac CC would remain open; and

WHEREAS: IDOC is only planning to open 800 new beds at another facility to accommodate the 1,600 inmates who would be moved out, thus greatly intensifying the dangerous overcrowding throughout the prison system; and

WHEREAS: Pontiac CC is the only maximum security facility to single cell most inmates. In fact Director Walker, in a letter announcing the closure, wrote: "The nature of our population at the Pontiac facility – segregation, mental health, and protective custody – calls for single-celling the majority of inmates"; and

WHEREAS: IDOC's closure plan calls for sending 200 Pontiac inmates to Stateville CC, which has very little single-cell capacity; and

WHEREAS: IDOC's closure plan also calls for sending an additional 200 Pontiac inmates to Pinckneyville CC, which has very little single-cell capacity and is not a maximum security facility; and

WHEREAS: Putting the inmates Director Walker describes in the general population at Stateville CC and Pinckneyville CC will place them, other inmates, and staff at risk; and

WHEREAS: IDOC claims that Pontiac CC is in disrepair and would require extensive and costly repairs, but has produced no evidence in support of this claim; and

WHEREAS: In reality, significant repairs have already been made at Pontiac CC in recent years and it is in sound condition; and

## ***Livingston County Commission on Children and Youth***

310 EAST TORRANCE AVENUE • P.O. BOX 504 • PONTIAC, IL 61764 • (815) 844-7708 • FAX (815) 844-7712

WHEREAS: IDOC makes no claim that there will be significant cost savings from the Pontiac CC closure; and

WHEREAS: Closing Pontiac CC would require hundreds of employees to move to distant parts of the state—far from their families—or to lose their jobs altogether; and

WHEREAS: The jobs provided at Pontiac CC pay fair wages and benefits, bringing greater economic stability to the communities in Livingston County where its employees reside.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED: That the Livingston County Commission on Children and Youth 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; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED: That the Livingston County Commission on Children and Youth calls on the Illinois General Assembly to adopt a budget that maintains full operation of Pontiac CC and to take whatever legislative action is needed to ensure that the facility is not closed; and

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED: That a copy of this resolution be sent to Governor Blagojevich, Senate President Emil Jones, House Speaker Michael Madigan, House Minority Leader Tom Cross, Senate Minority Leader Frank Watson and all legislators in the Pontiac CC vicinity.

05-27-08

Date

Michael J. Shaughnessy

Michael J. Shaughnessy, Chairman  
Livingston County  
Commission on Children and Youth

**PONTIAC  
COMMUNITY  
CONSOLIDATED  
SCHOOL  
DISTRICT**

**#429**

District Website  
www.pontiac429.org

**SUPERINTENDENT**  
**Steve Graham**  
grahamste@p429.k12.il.us

117 West Livingston Street  
Pontiac, Illinois 61764  
(815) 842-1533  
Fax (815) 844-5773

**CENTRAL ELEMENTARY SCHOOL**  
Michael Weaver, Principal  
(815) 844-3023  
Fax: (815) 844-5773

**LINCOLN ELEMENTARY SCHOOL**  
Maggie Janssen, Principal  
(815) 844-3924  
Fax: (815) 844-4720

**WASHINGTON ELEMENTARY SCHOOL**  
Kel Krenz, Principal  
(815) 844-3687  
Fax: (815) 844-2710

**PONTIAC JUNIOR HIGH SCHOOL**  
Judy Donze, Principal  
Cheryl Corrigan, Dean  
(815) 842-4343  
Fax: (815) 844-6230

**SPECIAL NEEDS OFFICE**  
Barbara House, Coordinator  
(815) 844-5448  
Fax: (815) 844-6230

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

*WHEREAS:* The Illinois Department of Corrections has announced its intention to close Pontiac CC, which would result in the loss of those 600 jobs and have a ripple effect on surrounding towns and counties; and

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*WHEREAS:* IDOC makes no claim that there will be significant cost savings from the Pontiac CC closure; and

*WHEREAS:* Closing Pontiac CC would require hundreds of employees to move to distant parts of the state – far from their families – or to lose their jobs altogether; and

*WHEREAS:* The jobs provided at Pontiac CC pay fair wages and benefits, bringing greater economic stability to area communities where its employees reside.

*THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED:* That Pontiac Grade School District #429 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; and

*BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED:* That Pontiac Grade School District #429 calls on the Illinois General Assembly to adopt a budget that maintains full operation of Pontiac CC and to take whatever legislative action is needed to ensure that the facility is not closed; and

*BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED:* That a copy of this resolution be sent to Governor Blagojevich, Senate President Emil Jones, House Speaker Michael Madigan, House Minority Leader Tom Cross, Senate Minority Leader Frank Watson and all legislators in the Pontiac CC vicinity.

6-19-08  
Date Approved

Al R. Felle  
Board of Education, Pontiac Grade School District #429

**JUN 25 2008**



# ***Fraternal Order of Police Illinois Department of Corrections Lodge #263***

**PRESIDENT**  
James Simmons

**VICE PRESIDENT**  
Mark Salsberry

**2<sup>nd</sup> VICE PRESIDENT**  
Tim Blair

**SECRETARY**  
Michael J. Davey

**TREASURER**  
Greg Johnson

**SGT AT ARMS**  
Gerald Raines

**PAST PRESIDENT**  
Andre Dixon

**CHAPLAIN**  
Charles Peterson

**DISTRICT 1 TRUSTEE**  
Jose Prado

**DISTRICT 2 TRUSTEE**  
Amy Freund

**DISTRICT 3 TRUSTEE**  
vacant

**DISTRICT 4 TRUSTEE**  
vacant

**DISTRICT 5 TRUSTEE**  
Doug Pyle

WHEREAS: Pontiac Correctional Center is a valued part of LaSalle, Livingston, McLean and Woodford Counties economies providing more than 600 jobs and is a substantial asset to the aforementioned communities of Illinois; and

WHEREAS: Pontiac Correctional Center is a maximum security institution and for the past six years has been dangerously understaffed, rather than address the hiring freeze with more officers the IDOC believes their answer is to move operations to an institution that they believe it can be operated with fewer staff; and

WHEREAS: Pontiac Correctional Center closing would require hundreds of employees to move to distant parts of the state, far from their families or to lose their jobs altogether; and the availability of employment does not consider the enormous expense that each family would be burdened with who must attempt to seek employment at other State of Illinois institutions; and

WHEREAS: IDOC claims that moving inmates to other facilities will allow greater access to education and training programs, but in fact budget cuts in recent years have decimated such programs at virtually every IDOC facility; and

WHEREAS: IDOC claims that Pontiac Correctional Center is in disrepair and would require extensive and costly repairs, but has produced no evidence in support of this claim; and

WHEREAS: In reality, the IDOC would have the money for the "so-called" repairs needed at Pontiac CC if they would not have to pay a minimum of 19 million dollars at each maximum security institution in overtime wages due to insufficient staffing; and

WHEREAS: IDOC claims that they will increase staff throughout Illinois institutions by 360 and another 377 collectively to staff the proposed TCC site they give no applicable timetable for this hiring process. The IDOC has had ample time to raise these levels during the past two fiscal years but has failed; and

P.O. Box 3175 Joliet, Illinois 60435-3175

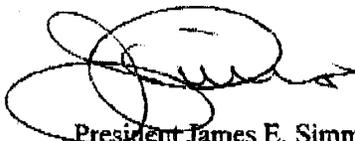
**WHEREAS:** The IDOC has not presented any credible rationale for the closure of Pontiac Correctional Center and it is their attempt to bring economic hardship to the citizens and the employees that this closing would affect; and

**THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED:** The Fraternal Order of Police Corrections Lodge #263 opposes the closing of Pontiac Correctional Center by IDOC Director Walker and Assistant Director Benos; and

**THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED:** That the Fraternal Order of Police Corrections Lodge #263 calls on the Illinois General Assembly to adopt a budget that maintains full operation of Pontiac Correctional Center and to take whatever legislative action is needed to ensure that the facility is not closed; and

**THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED:** That a copy of this resolution is sent to the Commission on Government Forecasting and Accountability, Senate President Emil Jones, House Speaker Michael J. Madigan, House Minority Leader Tom Cross, Senate Minority Leader Frank Watson and all legislators in Pontiac CC vicinity.

Respectfully,



President James E. Simmons  
"Corrections Lodge #263"  
Fraternal Order of Police

cc.

Commission on Government Forecasting and Accountability  
Speaker Michael Madigan  
Representative Tom Cross  
Senate President Emil Jones  
Senator Frank Watson  
Senator Dan Rutherford

P.O. Box 3175 Joliet, Illinois 60435-3175

June 23, 2008

Dear Senator Dan Rutherford,

We are writing to ask you for your support in HB 1235, which would place a moratorium on correctional facility closures and save the Pontiac Correctional Center (PCC). During our studies in Mr. Bohm's summer *Civics* course we have read in newspapers and seen on television the differing views concerning closure of the facility. As caring students and citizens, we are trying to make a difference in our community through civic engagement. We realize the General Assembly and governor need to pass a budget for the upcoming year, however we do not believe closing PCC and therefore putting numerous state employees out of work in central Illinois is the solution.

While we all attend Pontiac Township High School, we do not all reside within the boundaries of the city of Pontiac. Please be aware that Pontiac is not the only community that will be affected financially by the closure of PCC, there are numerous small communities in the area that will suffer financially. During our research we discovered that in 2004, it was estimated that closing the prison would have cost Livingston County around 40 million dollars. Due to inflation and other economic forces, we believe this is an amount that has surely risen during the past four years.

We understand the PCC facility is old; however, over the years many updates and renovations have taken place to ensure the soundness of the structure and safety of the employees. If the employees at PCC honestly thought that the working conditions were not safe, they would come forward and voice their concerns. Under such a scenario we would first promote the idea of making structural changes that would ensure the safety of the guards. If safe conditions could not be made and closure was the only option, we would be advocates for closure. However, through our discussions with prison guards at the prison we have come to the conclusion that this is not the case.

A vote to close PCC would put the future of many Illinois communities at risk. Therefore, we are asking for you to support HB 1235 and placing a moratorium on correctional facility closures until a comprehensive plan is completed.

Sincerely,

Mr. Bohm's Civics Class

Shannen Smith  
Kass Nascing  
Olle Eymann  
Key Calle  
David Vukic  
Jill Vietti  
Alex Strong  
Josh [unclear]  
Max [unclear]  
Wyle [unclear]

Evan Olson  
Josh [unclear]  
Ben [unclear]  
Lance [unclear]  
Kory [unclear]  
Nash [unclear]  
Amanda [unclear]  
Bridget [unclear]  
Jacqui DeFries

Kara Romney  
Amber Mussari  
Anabel [unclear]  
Amber Adkins  
Kayla Schott  
Kimberly Schott

Pontiac Dwight Prison Employee's Credit Union

P O Box 99

Pontiac, IL 61764

Phone: 815-842-2816 ext. 2320



**June 27, 2008**

**Governor Rod Blagojevich  
James R Thompson Center  
100 W Randolph St, Ste 16-100  
Chicago, IL 60601**

**Re: Pontiac Correctional Center**

**Dear Governor Blagojevich:**

**We are writing today to express our strong support for the Pontiac Correctional Center to remain open. Closing of this facility would have a huge impact on our business and all business's in the city of Pontiac. The economy in this rural area depends largely on the employment of the facility. Closing this facility would affect property values, the small store owners, gas stations, grocery stores, along with schools because families would move if the parents were required to look to another city for employment. A large majority of our members are employed at this Correctional Center. Our members would have to transfer or find employment elsewhere. The City of Pontiac relies heavily on the employees at Pontiac Correctional Center for a large portion of its revenue.**

**Our board of directors respectfully request to keep this facility open. Enclosed is a list of our directors' signatures showing the support for this action. We are looking forward to working with you in the years to come.**

**Sincerely,**

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Leora M Powley".

**Leora M Powley  
President/Treasurer/Manager**

**MP/lj**

**RESOLUTION TO KEEP PONTIAC  
CORRECTIONAL CENTER OPEN**

We the undersigned respectfully request that the  
Pontiac Correctional Center remain open.

**Signatures:**

*John M. Taylor*

*Rebecca A. Chary*

*Mary E. Ruffey*

*Eric K. Hale*

*Beth Hay*

*Ala. H. C.*

*Lynne Johnson*

*John Kraonican*

*Joan Bull*

*Eden Gayon*

*Amy Jensen*

*Edward Vitt*

*Brian Bradley*  
Chairman of the Board



May 19, 2008

Governor Rod Blagojevich  
James R. Thompson Center  
100 W. Randolph Street, Ste. 16-100  
Chicago, IL 60601

Subject: Pontiac Correctional Center Closure

Dear Governor Blagojevich:

Pontiac Correctional Center (PCC) is an important economical part of our community. PCC employs over 550 employees, 170 of these employees are residents of the City of Pontiac. By closing the Correctional Center, it will force the employees to either relocate or find other means of employment. This disruption will affect local businesses, churches, schools, and organizations.

After the record flooding this year that devastated so many, this community needs time to rebuild. This community has great will and pride, but could possibly be overcome by so much devastation in such a short amount of time.

The staff of the Farnsworth Group based in Pontiac, Illinois is writing in support of the Pontiac Correctional Center and hopes that Governor Blagojevich will reconsider his recommendation.

Sincerely yours,  
FARNSWORTH GROUP INC

Cc: Dan Rutherford  
File

## **Pontiac Correctional Center**

### **Resolution of the Pontiac Rotary Club Pontiac, Illinois**

**June 10, 2008**

**Policy Statement:** The members of the Pontiac Rotary Club support the Pontiac Correctional Center.

**Explanation:** Closure of the Pontiac Correctional Center will negatively impact the economic health and growth of greater Livingston County. The correctional center provides 600 jobs and purchases a significant amount of goods and services from area businesses and organizations. Closing the center would jeopardize not only Pontiac, but many surrounding towns and counties. While PCC employees will be offered the opportunity to move to new jobs at other correctional facilities, the negative impact to Livingston County's economy will continue to harm remaining residents and business owners.

**WHEREAS:** The Pontiac Correctional Center is an integral part of the Livingston County economy, providing 600 jobs and purchasing goods and services from numerous local and regional organizations, including businesses owned by several Pontiac Rotary members.

**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 Pontiac Rotary Club affirms its opposition to the Illinois Department of Corrections planned closure of the Pontiac Correctional Center and calls for Governor Blagojevich to stop all plans to close the facility.

Pontiac Correctional Center

Resolution of the  
Pontiac Rotary Club

June 10, 2008

Signature Page

Name

Address

Marlon Zeta Pontiac

Susan Gustoo Pontiac

Ellie Blumew Pontiac

Joe Hurd Pontiac

Chris Lambert Pontiac

Paul Plubnicki Pontiac

Daniel D. Fry Pontiac

Greg Pughoe Pontiac

Brian Blum Graymont

NATHAN JONNET

Dawn Hamilton Pontiac

Michelle Angle Pontiac

Mark Green Bloomington

Mark Bonatti Pontiac

Tommy Dan Pontiac

Byrd Chenoa

John Holt Pontiac

Daniel Moran PONTIAC

Frank Deminger Pontiac

Bill Schneider Cornell

Tommy Walters PONTIAC

Steve Soren Pontiac

Tim Tukey PONTIAC

Sarah Grove Pontiac



# OSF<sup>®</sup>

SAINT JAMES - JOHN W. ALBRECHT  
MEDICAL CENTER

June 5, 2008

Governor Rod Blagojevich  
James R. Thompson Center  
100 W. Randolph Street, Suite 16-100  
Chicago, IL 60601

Dear Governor Blagojevich:

Pontiac Correctional Center is a critical piece of the economic health of Livingston County. The correctional center and its 600 paid positions represent financial security not only to the persons who fill those positions, but to the many businesses which provide goods and services to the correctional center and sell food, gas, clothing and household goods to its employees. Closure of Pontiac Correctional Center would have a devastating impact on the greater Pontiac area, an impact that would be felt for many years to come.

As President and CEO of OSF Saint James – John W. Albrecht Medical Center, I can personally attest to the significant loss this closure would represent to local businesses. Our medical center would incur a drop of approximately \$1.7 million in revenue annually if no longer providing services to correctional center employees and their families. Such a sudden and dramatic drop in revenues would adversely affect our ability to purchase new technology, upgrade existing technology, offer education and support to community groups, and develop new services to meet the needs of our patients. And it could possibly result in the discontinuation of some services.

Enclosed is a resolution adopted by our medical center's Community Advisory Board last evening, opposing the proposed closure of Pontiac Correctional Center. This board is composed of intelligent, experienced, and community-minded professionals representing many of the communities of Livingston County, all of which would be harmed by closing PCC. I hope you will review this resolution with careful consideration and appreciate the message it sends.

I respectfully request that you reassess your plan to close Pontiac Correctional Center, and that you meet with government officials and community leaders to find an alternative that meets the correctional system's needs while preserving the economic health of our communities.

Sincerely,

David T. Ochs  
President & Chief Executive Officer



# OSF<sup>®</sup>

SAINT JAMES - JOHN W. ALBRECHT  
MEDICAL CENTER

## **Pontiac Correctional Center**

### **Resolution of the OSF Saint James – John W. Albrecht Medical Center Community Advisory Board**

**June 4, 2008**

**Policy Statement:** The OSF Saint James – John W. Albrecht Medical Center Community Advisory Board supports the Pontiac Correctional Center.

**Explanation:** Closure of the Pontiac Correctional Center will negatively impact the economic health and growth of greater Livingston County. The correctional center provides 600 jobs and purchases a significant amount of goods and services from area businesses and organizations. Closing the center would jeopardize not only Pontiac, but many surrounding towns and counties. While PCC employees will be offered the opportunity to move to new jobs at other correctional facilities, the negative impact to Livingston County's economy will continue to harm remaining residents and business owners.

**WHEREAS:** The Pontiac Correctional Center is an integral part of the Livingston County economy, providing 600 jobs and purchasing goods and services from numerous local and regional organizations, including OSF Saint James – John W. Albrecht Medical Center and OSF Medical Group – Livingston County; 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 OSF Saint James – John W. Albrecht Medical Center Community Advisory Board affirms its opposition to the Illinois Department of Corrections planned closure of the Pontiac Correctional Center and calls for Governor Blagojevich to stop all plans to close the facility.

*OSF Saint James - John W. Albrecht Medical Center is a 47-bed acute care medical center in Pontiac, Illinois, employing over 400 area residents who respond to 80,000+ inpatient and outpatient visits annually. The OSF Saint James Community Advisory Board is an 18-member panel of professionals and businesspersons from throughout Livingston County who advise medical center leaders on matters impacting the health and wellness of their respective communities.*



# OSF

SAINT JAMES - JOHN W. ALBRECHT  
MEDICAL CENTER

Pontiac Correctional Center

Resolution of the  
OSF Saint James - John W. Albrecht Medical Center  
Community Advisory Board

June 4, 2008

*Signature Page*

*Carol Bongasser, Fairbury*

*Jan Baran, Geneva*

*Doug Nelson, Gridley*

*Debra Duffy, Fairbury*

*Candy Miller, Pontiac*

*Shila Schwind, Pontiac*

*Myron L. Otto, Gridley*

*Earl McCoy, Dwight*

*Janne Burnett, Odell*

*Margaret A. Janssen, Pontiac*

*Jack Steinhilber, Pontiac*

*Sharris Orendorff, Flanagan*

*Jerome L. Grant-Quirk, Pontiac*

*Shelley J. Grove, Odell*

# INSTITUTE FOR HUMAN RESOURCES

MAY 26 2008

PO Box 768 • 310 E. Torrance Ave. • Pontiac, IL 61764 • (815) 844-6109 • FAX (815) 844-3561



May 21, 2008

Governor Rod Blagojevich  
207 State House  
Springfield, IL 62706

Dear Governor Blagojevich:

I have been the Director of the Livingston County mental health center for the last 26 years. During that time, my counselors have treated many of the staff who work at the Pontiac Correctional Center for stress and PTSD stemming from the very difficult job at a maximum security prison. I was the only non-prison psychologist that was called to assist when Frieda King was murdered there approximately 20 years ago. I have been in and out of the prison often during the last 26 years and feel that I understand the type of inmates that are incarcerated there as well as the type of staff that are necessary to work in such a place. I have grave reservations about closing this institution, both from a mental health standpoint and also from an economic standpoint for our county.

I understand the need to single cell most of these inmates because of the seriousness of their crimes and the fact that most of them will spend the rest of their life in this institution and really have no intention of improving their behavior. Pontiac Correction Center is on permanent lock down right now and I think this is very necessary for these types of criminals. I think it would be very dangerous to send this type of individual to other prisons where they would not have the security that they have at Pontiac Correctional Center. They need to be in a single cell and they need to have staff that are trained to handle this type of criminal. There are 1,600 inmates at Pontiac Correctional Center and I do not think that you can assimilate them into other correctional centers and have safety for both the criminals and for the staff that work there.

Many of these inmates have serious mental illness problems. I saw this firsthand when I was out there when they killed Frieda King. One of my board members at IHR has worked in both the Dwight Correctional Center and Pontiac Correctional Center for the last 25 years in the mental health unit as a prison psychologist. They are not everyday criminals in a correctional center, but very seriously disturbed people that need a mental health team that can treat them and keep the rest of the inmates safe. It would be very difficult to replicate these services in all of the other correctional centers that these inmates will be sent to if Pontiac closes.

Governor Rod Blagojevich

Page 2

May 21, 2008

Lastly, the economic impact would be enormous in Livingston County. Right now it is amazing to see how many of our school children are on public assistance and receive free lunch while at school. This is a blue collar community and Pontiac Correctional Center is a major employer for the whole county. There is no way that a county of 40,000 people can have business as usual when they loose 600 jobs. This county would take on a whole different personality without the 600 jobs and poverty will increase as more and more people leave the county. I have raised my children in this county and would hate to see the changes in our school systems and public service system when we loose so many jobs.

I know it is very difficult to balance the budget and that you have to make many difficult decisions as governor of Illinois. We are 100 miles away from Chicago and are a very rural community that is very dependent on this prison. I hope you will take time to consider the points that I have raised in this letter and will allow Pontiac Correctional Center to remain open. These are very difficult times and we really need to feel that our governor is behind us in times like this. Thank you for considering my letter and I wish you the best.

Sincerely,



Joe Ronaldson  
Executive Director

JR/cf

cc: Senator Emil Jones  
Senator Frank Watson  
Representative Michael Madigan  
Representative Tom Cross

# INSTITUTE FOR HUMAN RESOURCES

PO Box 768 • 310 E. Torrance Ave. • Pontiac, IL 61764 • (815) 844-6109 • FAX (815) 844-3561



WHEREAS: Pontiac Correctional Center is an integral part of the Livingston County economy, providing 600 jobs and purchasing goods and services from numerous local businesses; and

WHEREAS: The Illinois Department of Corrections has announced its intention to close Pontiac CC, which would result in the loss of those 600 jobs and have a ripple effect on the economy of all of Livingston County, and

WHEREAS: The IDOC has not presented any credible rationale for the closure, having told elected officials just days before the announced closure that Pontiac CC would remain open; and

WHEREAS: IDOC is only planning to open 800 new beds at another facility to accommodate the 1,600 inmates who would be moved out, thus greatly intensifying dangerous overcrowding throughout the prison system; and

WHEREAS: Pontiac CC is the only maximum security facility to single cell most inmates. In fact Director Walker, in a letter announcing the closure, wrote: "The nature of our population at the Pontiac facility – segregation, mental health, and protective custody – calls for single-celling the majority of inmates"; and

WHEREAS: IDOC's closure plan calls for sending 200 Pontiac inmates to Stateville CC, which has very little single-cell capacity; and

WHEREAS: IDOC's closure plan also calls for sending an additional 200 Pontiac inmates to Pinckneyville CC, which has very little single-cell capacity and is not a maximum security facility; and

WHEREAS: Putting the inmates Director Walker describes in the general population at Stateville CC and Pinckneyville CC will place them, other inmates, and staff at risk; and

WHEREAS: IDOC claims that Pontiac CC is in disrepair and would require extensive and costly repairs, but has produced no evidence in support of the claim; and

WHEREAS: In reality, significant repairs have already been made at Pontiac CC in recent years and it is in sound condition; and

WHEREAS: IDOC makes no claim that there will be significant cost savings from the Pontiac CC closure; and

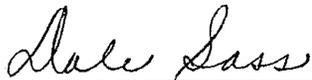
WHEREAS: Closing Pontiac CC would require hundreds of employees to move to distant parts of the state – far from their families – or to lose their jobs altogether; and

WHEREAS: The jobs provided at Pontiac CC pay fair wages and benefits, bringing greater economic stability to the communities in Livingston County where its employees reside.

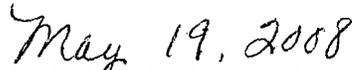
THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED: That the Institute for Human Resources affirms its opposition to Illinois Department of Corrections' planned closure of the Pontiac Correctional Center and calls on Governor Blagojevich to halt all plans to close the facility; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED: That the Institute for Human Resources calls on the Illinois General Assembly to adopt a budget that maintains full operation of Pontiac CC and to take whatever legislative action is needed to ensure that the facility is not closed; and

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED: That a copy of this resolution be sent to Governor Blagojevich, Senate President Emil Jones, House Speaker Michael Madigan, House Minority Leader Tom Cross, Senate Minority Leader Frank Watson and all legislators in the Pontiac CC vicinity.



\_\_\_\_\_  
Dale Sass, Board of Directors-President  
Institute for Human Resources

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

JUN 12 2008



# First United Methodist Church

## *Celebrating Over 150 Years Of Ministry*

219 North Chicago Street • Pontiac, Illinois • 61764 • Phone: 815.842.1157 • Fax: 815.844.6425 • www.pontiacfumc.org

**Rev. Dr. Phillip Icenogle**

Directing Pastor  
phil@pontiacfumc.org

**Rev. Grant Armstrong**

Associate Pastor  
grant@pontiacfumc.org

**Cheryl K. O'Donnell**

Administrative Secretary  
cheryl@pontiacfumc.org

**Becky Walker**

Children's Coordinator  
Financial Secretary  
becky@pontiacfumc.org

**Sharon Durham**

Head Custodian

**Laura Ramseyer**

Choir Director

**Mae Brewer**

Organist

May 23, 2008

Governor Rod Blagojevich  
James R. Thompson Center  
100 W. Randolph Street, Ste. 16-100  
Chicago, IL 60601

Dear Governor,

As pastor of First United Methodist Church of Pontiac and a concerned citizen I want to share my feelings about closing the Pontiac Correctional Center. Several members of my congregation work at the prison and are fearful of losing their jobs if the prison should close. This would be significant to them and their families. This is small compared to the impact the closing would have on Pontiac and Livingston County. That would be huge. The prison, I am sure you know, is one of the largest employers in our area. The loss of income and spending to this area would be devastating. Thousands of lives would be affected.

Please consider the impact this decision would have on so many people. In light of the uncertainty of the economic situation we are in, jobs would not be available for the bread winners to provide for their families. Pontiac could not tolerate losing this many jobs.

Please reconsider closing the Pontiac Correctional Center until a plan can be devised to minimize the impact on Pontiac, Livingston County and its families.

Thank you very much.

Sincerely,

Rev. Dr. Phillip L. Icenogle  
Directing Pastor, First United Methodist Church of Pontiac

**Dale Gerberding**

**From:** "Dale Gerberding" <gerberd@earthlink.net>  
**Sent:** Sunday, August 03, 2008 7:41 PM  
**Subject:** Response to Proposed Pontiac Correctional Center Closure



I am writing this for the rebuttal of the proposed closure of Pontiac Correctional center

On page one #2

It talks about how Pontiac has stacked galleries and this is less safe and secure mainly due to inadequate sightlines as there is no visibility to higher tiers from ground level or the control center. Then states that Thompson is constructed of two-tiered tapered housing units with improved sightlines both inside the housing units and from an elevated control center.

Yes east and west house are stacked galleries. They also have a catwalk that is manned with 2 officers that are armed with mini-14 rifles. This catwalk goes all around in the inside of east and west house. The catwalk officers can see into aprox 75% of the inmate cells and can watch for any trouble on the gallery and inside the cells. There are 2 gun towers that are centered between east and west house on both sides of the units that can be manned to watch the whole side of these units assisting the catwalk officer. With this system of towers and catwalks there are excellent lines of sight and protection.

North house and South house each has 2 gun towers on the west side of the units placed aprox at the first quarter and last quarter of the units. On the east side of these units there is one gun tower apiece at the center of each unit. These towers were designed to be double manned to have coverage at all times of inmate movement. No mentioned of these towers, catwalks are in this report. This report makes one to believe that the control center is the only person trying to watch the galleries which is untrue.

Besides the control officer, catwalk and tower officers there are security cameras positioned in key areas of the cell houses and through out the institution. These cameras are being monitored from the armory, the shift commanders office, and the wardens offices. With all this I think Pontiac has very good lines of sight plus every officer has a radio to keep in constant communication with control center, command staff, and the armory for any situation that may arise.

According to the report Thompson's elevated control center can only see down the gallery. Where in east and west house the catwalk officer can see and protect inside the cells.

Page 4 #4

Report state that Thompson has 1,600 single man cells, that if needed can be converted into double manned cells. It is my understanding that there is a law in effect now that each inmate has to have X amount of square foot of living space inside their cell. Can Thompson legally double man these cells? Pontiac has been grandfathered in so that this law does not effect us to double cell inmates to my understanding.

Report states that Pontiac is next to residential housing. I guess this is a relative term and how you want to use the phrase next to. I have been to the city of Thompson and seen where the Thompson prison is located. True Thompson prison is not right next to residential housing but its just a stones throw from being right next to. Thompson is located close enough to city of Thompson I don't see much of a difference between the two prisons why this is even being mentioned in the report?

Page 6 #8 Infrastructure

Report states That Thompson is a better designed and constructed Facility

1. Thompson was a prefabricated building whose walls were brought into the building site on tractor trailers. Pontiac walls are aprox 3 ft thick and constructed when buildings were constructed to last for a very long time.
2. The back of the cells at Thompson are the outside walls of the institution. Pontiac cells face the outside wall of the cell houses for added security of escapes. There is a tunnel between the two sides of the cell house's that the back of the cells from both sides back up the walls of this tunnel where the plumbing is located. One year before we went on deadlock the inmates in north cell house tried to tunnel out the back of the cells into this tunnel. The inmates could NOT do this because of the superior construction on these walls and could NOT escape into the tunnel. Pontiac is a tried and true safe facility unlike Thompson which is a new and untried facility. One example of this is one of Pontiac command staff on tour of Thompson walked into one of the maximum security cells. Within mins without the use of any tools he was able to dismantled the light fixture in the cell into pieces. This means the inmates that will live in these cells will be able to do the same if not more to these lights. Either making weapons from the fixtures or hide contraband in them. Pontiac has learned

from years of dealing with maximum security inmates on what a inmate can do with the physical structuring of a cell. We have a few steel lined cells that have concrete pored around the toilet and sink and concrete beds to prevent damage to cell and protect staff from a aggressive inmate. Also Pontiac has suicide cells which have the concrete as the latter mentioned cells with Plexiglas fronts so staff can view into the whole cell to keep a close observation on inmates that have suicidal behavior.

Will the Thompson facility have to spend more money on its cells to accommodate the same type of behavior inmates that Pontiac has? In the early 90's on the 2nd of July if I recall correctly The inmates in North house set the house on fire. The fire dept. was called but would not enter inside the walls of Pontiac until all inmates where secured. We where on our own dealing with this situation for some time. There was no hesitation from staff on duty or off duty to help with this situation. Many staff heard of the fire and voluntarily came inside the prison to help in anyway could in this time of crisis. Every inmate in north house was in segregation status and had to be evacuated This meant that that every north hose inmate had to be cuffed from behind and individually escorted by an officer onto the recreation yard. The aprox count of inmates in north cell house was close to 280 inmates. By 5 pm that afternoon Pontiac staff had a correct count check of all inmates. Inmates had been sent to St.James hospital for treatment of one type or another to the fire and smoke. Staff had all inmates secured and we did not have one escape,serious injury, or death during this time of crisis. The Pontiac staff did a impressive job for the health,safety and security for the state of Illinois and the residents of the city of Pontiac. The American Correctional Association gave their medal of valor not to just one or a few staff members of Pontiac but to the entire staff of the Pontiac Correctional center for their heroic actions. The inmates here have tried to tear down and burn Pontiac Prison but its so well constructed that they could not do it on two separate incidents.

Before Pontiac went on deadlock and became the segregation institution of the state of Illinois the state paid a review panel made up of ex wardens from other states to fact find what the state could do to improve security inside the I.D.O.C. The state paid aprox \$10,000,000 for this fact finding review panel and one of the findings or recommendation to the I.D.O.C. was that it should have a segregation facility for the state of Illinois. After Pontiac had that incident in east cell house and the Richard speck tapes Pontiac was converted into this all segregation facility for the state. Pontiac spent many dollars in renovations and for security to make Pontiac a very well working segregation facility. Pontiac was able to free up bed space in other institutions because now it was the main segregation unit for the state. The number of assaults and other infraction of the rules have dropped in other institutions because inmates don't want to come to Pontiac to serve the segregation time. I remember the days working in Pontiac before we had a segregation prison was established. The warden would have to give inmates that was serving segregation time in our north cell house early segregation time cuts. The warden would have to do this because we didn't have enough bed space for inmates that was walked to segregation. Inmates would not have to do their full time of segregation unless it was for a major assault. The inmates also knew that if they was walked to segregation even if the adjustment committee that heard the ticket and gave them a year time of segregation they wouldn't have to stay in segregation for the full year. It would work something like this. When a officer would find a homemade knife in a cell and the inmate would be walked to segregation. The warden would have to let a inmate out of segregation that caught a weapons ticket before he served the whole year in segregation. Because we did not have the bed space in our one segregation unit at the time. Now the inmates state wide know that for what ever infraction of the rules they do they will have to serve the entire segregation time in Pontiac. With Pontiac as the segregation unit for the state it has made very prison in the state safer for everyone. I am sure if you check the records you will find that the breaking of rules problem has dropped for every institution because inmates don't want to come to Pontiac. Its a system that not only works but works very well for the security of the I.D.O.C.

#### Page 9 Impact of service delivery

The report just talks about how great Thompson is under this heading. It does not state anything about the impact delivery of service. As Thompson is I believe the northern most facility and only aprox 20 min at most from Clinton Iowa which is the largest community does this mean the prison will be served from outside the state?

This survey of the Illinois Capital Development Board during the Feb. of 2008. It must had been a wish list of some type. How they got the outrages figures for the cost of improvements here are just mind boggling! For example they list Tower one as needing \$210,878.95 in maintenance needs! You could build at least 5 new tower ones for that kind of money! From the ground up new construction! Not one person in maintenance or in the institution itself that I know of can understand the outrages figures this report has in it. The one exception is the officers quarters which is in dire need of repair! Yes every building in the state needs upkeep even the old capital building but where in the world did these figures come from?

Questions about Thompson Correctional center that was not addressed in this report.

1. Will Thompson be the segregation prison for the state?

2. Will the condemned unit be moved to Thompson?
3. Will Thompson have the majority of Protective Custody inmates as Pontiac does?
4. Will Thompson have the Mental Health unit?
5. If Thompson will be the segregation unit for the state will it also have the segregation release unit? It should have this unit for inmates released from segregation till they are transferred out of Thompson. As they are no longer in segregation status.
6. Is the design and layout of Thompson as such that Thompson can have segregation or population, protective custody, mental health, segregation release, and condemned inmates be kept separated from other from each of these different classification of inmates without any contact or interaction between these classification of inmates properly? Or will the state have to spend more money on a new prison to accommodate the physical separation of these different classification of inmates?

When Pontiac had been converted into the segregation prison for the state many correctional dignitaries from other states and countries came in toured Pontiac Prison because they wanted a Prison like Like Pontiac. Everyone that toured Pontiac had nothing but HIGH praise for the way Pontiac was operating, Some even came back a second time to see how it was still functioning and always had praise for us. You may say that we have the Tamns Prison to use but Tamns has sent many inmates back to us because they cannot handle this type of problem behavior that we deal with at Pontiac. Just check that out we have sent inmates to Tamns and they send the inmate back saying we cant deal with this type of inmate but Pontiac can and we do!

At this time Pontiac is very well suited to keep all these different classification of inmates separated and way from each other. Pontiac is a safe and well run facility for staff and inmate alike. For the work that Pontiac is set up to deal with it will cost the taxpayers of the state of Illinois more money in the long run if Pontiac is closed because Pontiac is so well built for the day to day operations of all these classification of inmates in a central location. One could understand if Pontiac was falling apart like Stateville Prison is. They have 3-4 housing units condemned and cannot be used to house inmates. Pontiac is fully fictional. The economic impact on this area will be great. I have been through one mine closeour and laid off several times and each time in the area of the mine it got worst. Closing Pontiac will have a domino effect on the surrounding Pontiac area. The banks and realtors or in a small panic now with the talk of Pontiac closing. You will effect peoples lives in such a way it will cause deep hardship. Economic failure and even divorces of couples from Pontiac prison and area. The sad part of this is that anyone that has been to stateville prison can tell you its falling apart and is not ran half as good as Pontiac is being run. Will also save more money for the state by closing Stateville just in repair money alone! I believe that the Pontiac closure is all politics and nothing more! Which why its so sad to be happing this way! I am also sending a copy of what was wrote to the Kankakee Journal and printed. It makes good sense why not to close Pontiac Prison.

## **Voice of the People: Questions on Pontiac Prison**

07/23/2008, 9:05 am

[Comment on this story](#)

I have some questions and facts regarding the closing of Pontiac Correctional Center that I would like to share with the taxpayers, reporters and lawmakers.

\* Is Cook County Jail housing convicted and sentenced criminals that should be in DOC facilities and is the Department of Corrections paying Cook County for their housing?

\* According to the Comptroller's website "Open Book," the DOC had paid no money to Cook County in fiscal year 2003, but every fiscal year since 2004 to present has paid \$ 8-9 million each

year.

\* Closing Pontiac prison provides annual savings of \$5 million, while closing Statesville prison savings of \$31 million. Isn't that fuzzy math and accounting?

\* Pontiac is the oldest of three MAX prisons, which doesn't mean Pontiac's condition, is the worst. Much of Stateville prison is inoperable at this time. Pontiac should be compared to Stateville and Menard prisons, not a new prison like Thomson.

\* Does placing Pontiac prison's MAX Segregation offenders in Thomson prison best utilize Thomson's state of the art technology since it was designed for MAX General Population offenders?

\* Thomson prison was not designed for housing destructive MAX Segregation offenders. Pontiac was redesigned by DOC in 1996 for housing the state's troublemakers and is very efficient in keeping other prisons safe.

I would like to see prison tours with reporters, our lawmakers and AFSCME in order to fully research the closing of any prisons. Tours will provide a clear view with No Smoke, No Mirrors.

Steve Endres

Fairbury

Thank you  
Dale A Gerberding  
Fairbury IL.

**John McGlasson**  
**402 Payson Street**  
**Pontiac, Illinois 61764**  
**(815)844-3452**



**Senator Jeff Schoenberg, Co-Chairman**

**Representative Rich Myers, Co-Chairman**

**Commission on Government Forecasting and Accountability**

**703 Stratton Office Building**

**Springfield, Illinois 62706**

**Dear Sirs:**

**As I stood in the rain on the day that supporters of Pontiac Prison gathered to produce a visual example of our support for keeping Pontiac Correction Center open, it occurred to me that the way that Governor Blagojevich has suggested changes is cruel and sadistic. In my minds eye, I pictured him chuckling to himself about those fools standing in the rain begging him to change his mind.**

**On the other side of the coin are communities that hope to reap the benefits of the proposed changes. Thomson with its prison, of course, is the example in this case; but also the many communities in the southern part of the state that hoped to be the new site of the IDOT facility. All of those lined up to please the governor and beg to be his choice.**

**If he were sincere in his beliefs, then these changes would have been researched and sites would have been selected on merit, prior to**

**public disclosure. But no, time after time, he has had the pleasure of communities and their legislative leaders kneeling at this throne and begging for his favors. One wonders if he hopes that his campaign coffers are enriched as well. Certainly Members of the General Assembly have had to consider how their votes might affect his decisions.**

**As a member of Pontiac's City Council, I am well aware that the economic case in support of Pontiac Correctional Center is being made. You and the members of the Commission will have been given the facts about how our community will be harmed. But think of the dignity of the citizens. Pontiac has been a good home for the correctional center for more than a century. Pontiac, its government, and its business community have been good partners. Now we are forced to beg for the opportunity to continue.**

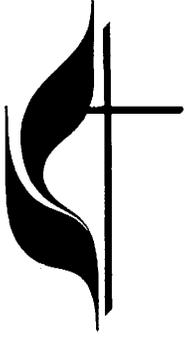
**Please, on our behalf, and for the dignity of all Illinois; show Governor Blagojevich that government in Illinois is done with sound decisions based on the facts. Not by punishing Members of the General Assembly by threatening the communities they serve. And not by dangling favors in front of our noses only to change on a whim when he desires, and not promising what he cannot deliver. He must work with all; if Illinois is to finally begin to move forward into the future. Helping one community by harming another is not progress.**

**Thank you,**

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "John McGlasson". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke at the end.

**John McGlasson, 1<sup>st</sup> Ward Alderman**

**City of Pontiac**



# The United Methodist Church

BLACKSTONE, ILLINOIS 61313  
CORNELL, ILLINOIS 61319

P. O. Box 263  
Cornell, Illinois 61319

Office: 358-2347  
Residence: 358-2562

8/4/2008

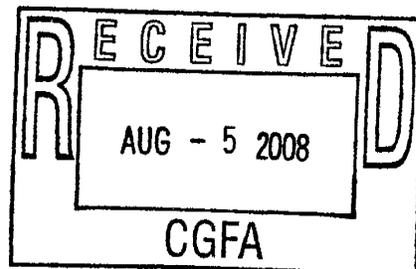
To Whom it May Concern:

I am writing in opposition to the closing of Pontiac Prison. Granted, I am new to this area and have only been the Pastor at Cornell and Blackstone United Methodist Churches for a short-time, but it did not take me long to see how important Pontiac Prison is to our area. It is my duty as a clergyman appointed by the Bishop to speak out against injustice in whatever form it may present itself. The closing of Pontiac Prison would be an injustice to many people in the community I serve. A significant amount of the population of this small community of Cornell is dependent on Pontiac Prison for employment. On a more selfish note, a member of my wife's family is an employee of Pontiac Prison and would be without a source of income due to this closing.

Pontiac Prison has served our area for many years and should be allowed to continue that way. Please weigh carefully the implications that would be brought about by an action that would close Pontiac Prison.

Respectfully,

Reverend Larry D. Frank, Jr.  
Cornell United Methodist Church



Dear Co-Chairmen Schoenberg and Myers,

This is to let you know my thoughts on the possible closing of PCC.

I have lived in and around Pontiac all my life. I am 66 yrs. old. If PCC closed it would impact my daughter who is a new real estate agent and her husband who is an 11 yr. employe of PCC.

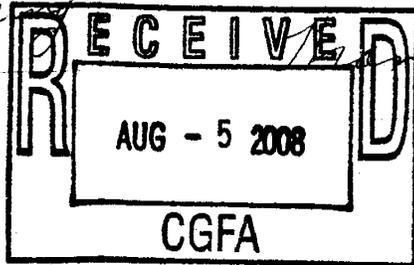
I really think Livingston Co. would suffer economically if it closed. As you know there are a lot of employees and their families who live in Pontiac and surrounding counties. This is a very small town and Co. That would really suff

I thought opening the new prison would be for overflow. Please use it for that and it would help that area and all of the other prisons in Ill. as well.

Please take a step back and help the people of this small town as we really need it. I have a lot of relatives who are unemployed now and there are not enough places for them to get a job.

Also my son-in-law and daughter own 3 houses in Pontiac that they would have to sell or loose if PCC closed.

I'm praying the state will do the right thing.



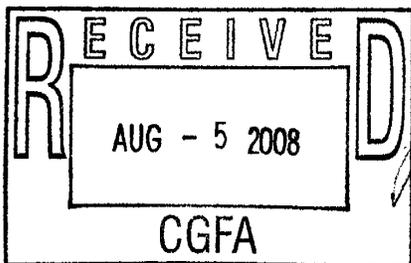
Thanks for your time,  
Linda Felt

To Whom it May Concern,  
I am a 76 year old woman that was grown  
up with PCC. at Portia That institution has  
been away of life for many people I know  
in Livingston Co. I have <sup>known</sup> many people thru  
out the years that worked there some with  
both husband & wife. These people always seem  
to have a good way of life. Thirty years ago  
at the time of the riot I lost a neighbor  
I have a son and grand son who own  
and operate a business on the square in Portia.  
So when I think about it thru out the years  
PCC has touched my life in many ways.  
So I do think it is important to keep it  
open.

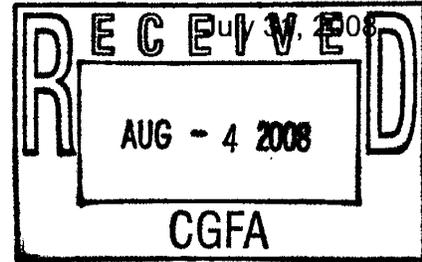
Sincerely  
Norma Galbreath  
P. O. Box 217  
Lancaster

Illinois 61769

phone 815-832-4661



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,

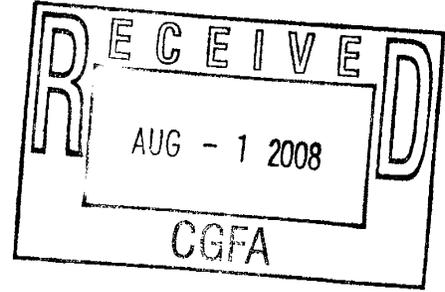
I have frequently had the pleasure of interacting with the staff of Bank of Pontiac due to my work responsibilities and through these relationships I have become familiar with the good people of Pontiac. As a resident of Aurora with an outside perspective, I have been impressed by the friendly atmosphere 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



July 31, 2008

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

Re: Possible closure of Pontiac Correctional Center

Dear Senator Schoenberg and Representative Myers:

I am writing to you as a life time resident of the Pontiac area, a Sr. VP of lending at the State Bank Of Graymont and the Chairman Elect of the Pontiac Area Chamber of Commerce. I believe I am well qualified to tell you how devastating the closure of PCC would be economically to this area. Studies have been done that quantify those numbers. Unfortunately, even the possible closure of PCC has already had a large negative impact on the local economy.

Of course, what is bad economically for the Pontiac area is good for the Thomson area. No one is disputing that fact. What I do have a dispute with is the process (or lack thereof) in determining which if any prisons should be closed.

Every study I have seen says the state's prisons are running at 135% of capacity. How can Stateville be slated for closure and then overnight that decision reversed and Pontiac be on the chopping block? How can any prison be closed without jeopardizing the safety of prison employees because of the overcrowding?

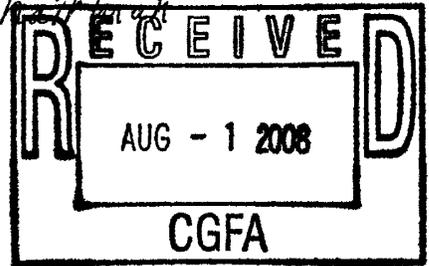
Let's put some method to the madness. Stop what appear to be knee jerk decisions on prison closures. Take the time to have the whole system studied so a multi-year plan can be developed. Then, every community with a correctional facility can plan accordingly.

Sincerely,

Robert Tronc  
1802 Bob O Link Dr  
Pontiac, Il 61764

July 30, 2008

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



Sirs,

I am writing this letter with the hope that many small voices can become one very large voice. There are many of us without personal power to bring about change or affect government decisions, who must depend on our elected officials to speak and act on our behalf. I am asking you to do that and to ask others to help you.

The closing of the Pontiac Prison would affect so many of us in so many ways. There are many who would be forced to sell their homes and move, who might be forced to look for other jobs. Where would they go?

As for myself, I'd be affected because my husband works at the Pontiac Prison. He just recently got enough time in to retire, but he decided to work 2 more years so

we could buy a home.

The last few years, we finally were able to start saving toward a home. The last 20 years, we've been living in a mobile home park. When Gary got hired at the Pontiac Prison, we were living in Fayette County. He had worked at Cat in Decatur. He experienced layoffs throughout the 80's. It was very tough going. So, when he got hired at the prison, we put our modest home up for sale. After almost a year, we finally had to sell it (at a loss) at auction.

We moved away from everything familiar, but we wanted to be together and our 4 children needed their father. We couldn't afford a home and there was nothing to rent. (Cat had recently closed a plant and moved some of the workers to Pontiac.)

We bought a used trailer (mobile home) on contract and moved into a trailer court. It was miserable, but at least we were all together and we could pay our bills. We don't ask for much, just that we be given a fair chance. We've taught our children to earn their pay and be responsible.

Earlier this year, we decided we could

3

afford to buy a home, if we took out a small mortgage, we found a small, older fixer-upper in Flanagan, (about 11 miles from Pontiac) We made a substantial downpayment, so we only had to borrow \$25,000. That doesn't sound like much, but if Gary were retired (with only a 20 year pension), money would be very tight. So, he planned to work for a couple of years more to try to pay off most of the mortgage and to fix up the house.

We thought that we might finally get a little of what most others have enjoyed most of their lives. Now, the ~~possibility~~ possibility of the Pontiac Prison closing is looming over us, threatening our little dream. We don't know if we can make our payments if Gary is forced to retire now. We're ~~too~~ too old to move on. Gary has health issues and can't be expected to work many more years, so transferring wouldn't make sense.

Also, if the prison closes, homes won't be worth what people paid for them. The market would be flooded and there would be few people to buy the homes. This area would be devastated. Many businesses rely

on prison employees to help keep their businesses going. If there are fewer people spending, prices will have to go up. Who can afford that? Working class people are already struggling.

It doesn't make sense to devastate the economy of one area to stimulate another. Also, some of the experienced employees won't be able (or willing) to move. That will mean training new people and costing the taxpayers. The cost of moving the prisoners would be considerable as well. (Not to mention the risks)

Closing the prison affects other jobs as well. Our son works at Pontiac Wal-Mart. He has saved his money and wants to buy a house, but is worried about the future of Wal-Mart in Pontiac if the prison closes. Every few years, we go through this, worrying that the prison might close.

When Gary got on at the prison, we said 'at least the job will be secure. We'll not be living in limbo and suffering layoffs.' It would be nice to be able to relax and have one less thing to worry about. We would <sup>to</sup> know that we'll have a little home where <sup>Nike</sup>

by  
P.S. My husband has a dangerous job. He risks his life every day that he walks into that prison. It is time for the state to show some appreciation.

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We can be comfortable and enjoy our grandchildren. Gary needs to work for a few more years so we can do that.

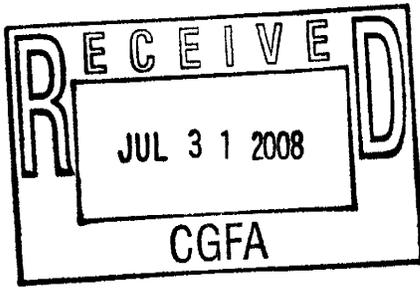
There are many people who would be hurt more if the prison closes, but I think our personal concerns are still valid.

As I said, we don't ask for much. People like Gov. Blagojevich have so much and ask us 'little' people to help pay for so much, yet they don't seem to consider us when they make their decisions.

My husband, Gary, says Pontiac Prison is in good shape. He says a lot of money has been put into maintenance since he has been there. He feels the prison is secure and has a good future (if given a chance). There are many good people working at the Pontiac Prison. They are raising families and being active in their communities. Some are quiet people like us, but we are good solid citizens who don't cheat on our taxes or break the law. We don't make waves. We just want to stay afloat.

My husband is Gary  
Rolfingsmeier  
Corrections Officer

Sincerely,  
Darlene A. Rolfingsmeier  
P.O. Box 275  
Flanagan, IL 61740



Roger & Christine Beasley

404 West Oak Street

Fairbury, Illinois 61739

815-692-3873

[laptopgandalf@verizon.net](mailto:laptopgandalf@verizon.net)

Dear Senator Jeff Schoenberg Co-Chairman

And Representative Rich Myers Co-Chairman COFGA,

Our names are Roger and Christine Beasley and we joined the Illinois Department Of Corrections at Pontiac Correctional Center in 1990. Christine was hired as a Corrections Medical Technician and Roger was hired as a Correctional Officer. We have seen the Pontiac Correctional Center go through every possible change, and have been part of the transformation of the prison into the Segregation Unit for the entire State Of Illinois. When we began working back in 1990 every prison in the state of Illinois required a separate Segregation Unit to hold the inmates that incurred Seg time for rules infractions. At Pontiac alone we had the North Cellhouse dedicated to Seg and it regularly held at least 200 and was always full on a constant basis. One very frustrating problem with this system is that with limited bed space for Segregation it would turn out that when an inmate did something that resulted in Seg time – then the inmate that was in Seg for the longest amount of time got released back into regular population to make room for the most recent Seg inmate. Sometimes with this system an inmate that was in Seg for a violent assault would be released for something as simple as an inmate making wine! This was a very difficult and dangerous time for all of us that worked through that period of time – I cannot stress this enough that we do not ever want the prison system to go back to this system ever again. As time progressed the increasing gang activity and inmate violence caused a dramatic change in the disciplinary system throughout the entire State Of Illinois resulting in the Pontiac Correctional Center becoming the Segregation Unit for the entire State Of Illinois. One of the big reasons that Pontiac was chosen that many people seem to forget is the fact we are centrally located and equally accessible to all prisons. As much as we try to be strict and unrelenting in the segregation of the inmates we must always remember that they still have certain rights and one that is extremely important is that they are allowed visits by friends and family. Once again Pontiac being centrally located allows all inmates families the equal ability to visit. It has been shown in countless studies that visits from family help reduce recidivism, and in the case of a Segregation Unit it would be vital to get this

help to the inmates. With the location of Pontiac all other prisons are able to transport the inmates to us with a minimum of overtime and travel costs. One of the other prime considerations of a Segregation Unit is that it frees up the bed space at all other prisons as it frees them from the necessity of having a Seg Unit at their prison. Without this Segregation Unit in place we'd have to revert to the old disciplinary system again with each prison keeping all of their own seg units. Over the years Pontiac has been retrofitted and changed to the Segregation Unit and studies have shown that it is quite efficient. When we talk about the age of Pontiac no one seems to take into account the amount of money and time and materials that have been spent to update it into the Segregation Unit – so in essence a great part of it is newer than most prisons. While talking about money considerations remember this about Pontiac – while inmates are in Segregation they no longer attend high school, or many other programs that they would require in general population. Therefore at Pontiac we do not need to spend the money for the programs or the staffing of the various programs that everyone else does!

I cannot even begin to count the number of problems that moving the Segregation Unit to Thompson would create! You must keep in mind of the fact about Pontiac being centrally located and think about the distances involved in transporting any inmate from Southern Illinois to Thompson would create. A transfer of an inmate from Menard C.C. to Thompson would require a drive of over 10 hours one way! How many inmate families from central Illinois will be willing to travel 3-6 hours to get to Thompson to see their inmate? Very few would see anyone at all. Thompson C.C. would only benefit upper Northern Illinois and while many pundits may claim that the majority of inmates come from Chicago that just simply is just not so. The amount of time spent in transporting these inmates must also take into consideration overtime, fuel costs, vehicle maintenance, feeding of inmates/staff on long writs, and so many other factors! Simply put the idea of closing down Pontiac and using Thompson is completely without merit – it shows absolutely no real research into the viability of this type of change.

We have created a life around our home in Fairbury, Illinois and it is just simply not possible to pick up and move that life. We chose Pontiac because it is midway between our two families. My wife and I both have children by previous marriages – 3 each. My wife's children have families 2 ½ hours north of us, I have families 2 ½ hours south of us. Her youngest daughter lives in the same town as us and is having her first baby in August and we will be one of the primary babysitters for the child. We also are having another Grandchild just 30 miles south of us and will be expected to help with the upbringing of that child. We have a house that while it is not elaborate or exclusive but we have worked on for over 16 years now. We have spent thousands of dollars on landscape and plants that just simply are not possible of moving. There is no way we can even begin to think of leaving our house to move to another location. We both have in 18 years now and have been looking forward to retirement in another 2-5 years and we have been structuring our lives towards that end. My wife works as a

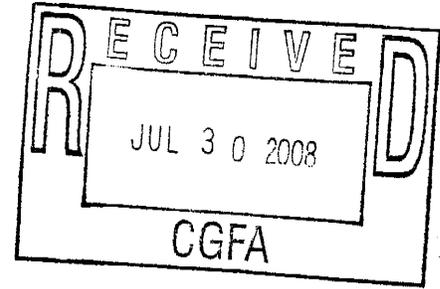
Corrections Medical Technician and there will be no options of transfer for her as only the Max prisons have that position. She will be eligible for retirement in 2 years and has even volunteered to move to 3<sup>rd</sup> shift for the next two years until retirement to help with the grandchildren. I cannot even think of what sort of job that either of us could work at our age until such time as we could finally retire.

I urge you to do whatever you can to help keep Pontiac Correctional Center from closing – for that matter I hope that no other prison is targeted for closing. The economic and social impact of Pontiac Correctional Center closing is just too extreme to ignore. While I realize our story is just one out of many – there are over 600 more just like us who have a story of just how bad our lives would become if Pontiac were to close. I urge everyone to take a close look at just how the Segregation Unit at Pontiac keeps the costs of transporting inmates to a minimum because of our central location. I urge everyone to ignore the amount of time Pontiac has been open and instead concentrate on how much money and material has went into the changes at Pontiac to make it viable for many more decades of use. I want to thank you in advance for taking the time to read my letter and hope that you will address the issues to keep our prisons open.

Thank you for your time and consideration,

Roger and Christine Beasley

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

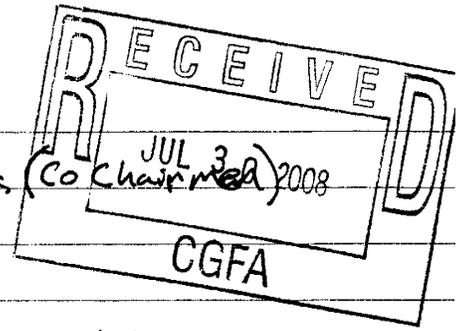
Dear Senator Schoenberg and Representative Myers:

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

Bruce W. Allison  
P.O. Box 316  
Sauvemin, Illinois 61769



To Sen. Schoenberg and Rep. Myers (Co Chair ~~med~~)

Dear Sirs,

I'm writing to ask you to keep Pontiac CC open and here are my arguments for doing so. First it would destroy this community. One major factory has already told its employees it will close if this happens and two more has made hints that they will follow suit. Most of the small businesses will go under to. Yes I believe Thompson should open, but you don't destroy one community in order to build up another one. Quite frankly I think it should be against the law to close any facility when you are paying millions of dollars each month in finds because you don't have enough beds for the inmates at Cook County. What you are paying in finds you could open up ONE or maybe even two facilities. But that is a hush hush subject because to many people have their hands in that cooky jar. The Feds only need to investigate that little transaction and a lot of heads would roll. If you go by Walker's proposal for closer (the same one he used for Vandalia and Statesville, just change the names) we should be closed, but I don't believe anybody is that gullible to believe that piece of propaganda. First of all our budget is 28 million not 50. It costs 31 thousand a year to house an inmate at Pontiac. Only Menards is cheaper. The rest cost around 42 thousand. That makes us the second most efficient facility. As for the 108 million in repairs, I can only laugh. Half the buildings he mention are not in use and are only standing because he wouldn't give us the money to take them down. Some of the buildings he mention three times. How many times does he plan to fix the same building? And the amounts he

Said the repairs will cost. Lets just say a lot of contractors will be retiring as multi-millionaires. Quite frankly I have been to a lot of facilities and Pontiac CC is in better shape than half of them. And it should be since most of its buildings were built in the 1960's. Even North and South house (the only building still standing from 1871) was completely gutted out and rebuilt after a AGO's Supreme Court Ruling on housing inmates below ground. To say Pontiac CC is over a hundred and thirty years old is the same as saying every house and building in the United States of America is over two hundred and thirty years old. We all know what this is really about. Someone getting a nice check from the corporations wanting to build the gambling casinos and the contractors who are going to build them.

Sam W. Allin

Bruce W. Allison

JUL 22 2008

P.O. Box 316

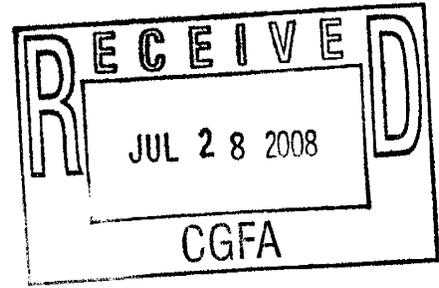
Sauvemin, Ill. 61769

(815) 822-4451

Dear Mr. Governor,

I'm sure you are getting plenty of letters such as this lately. So here is one more plea for you to cancel your plans to close Pontiac CC. I'm a single father trying to do right by my two kids. I served seven years in the Navy trying to do right by my country. Now I'm an Illinois State Correctional Officer trying to do right by my state and its people. Rand R Donnelley Printing has already stated to its employees that if Pontiac CC closes (one of their major accounts) so will they. Both Cattipellar and Interlake have made similar hints to their employees. This will be the same as if a class five tornado destroyed this community. When you took office, you swore an oath to be everybody's Governor. Whether they be white or black, male or female, or even whether they be Republican or Democrat. What I'm really asking you is to be my Governor and please don't destroy my home.

Bruce W. Allison



July 23, 2008

Senator Jeff Schoenberg, Co-Chairman  
Representative Rich Myers, Co-Chairman  
Commission on Government Forecasting & Accountability  
703 Stratton Office Bldg  
Springfield, Illinois 62706

Re: Proposed Closing Pontiac Correctional Center

Dear Sir:

Ever since the announcement of the proposed Pontiac Correctional Closing instead of Stateville Prison I have asked myself if this is best for the State, for the community, for the public and for the inmates themselves. I have attended meetings, listened to the media and read the articles published including the Economic Impact Analysis and Director Walker's response to the commission on Government Forecasting and Accountability.

I have formed an opinion and reflected upon the impact directly to my family and to my community. My husband and I have lived in Pontiac since October 1973 when we opened our first retail business with my father as our partner. Over the next 19 years we owned and operated various retail businesses in Pontiac and Bloomington. We have raised four children in Pontiac, the older three are grown, educated and no longer living at home, except for the 24 yr old 2<sup>nd</sup> Lt. US Marine Corps calls Pontiac his base home. The last child will be entering her 2<sup>nd</sup> year of college at Western University. In the years as small business owners we invested ourselves into the community and after many sleepless hours sold or closed our businesses; but continued to invest ourselves to community service. We changed our direction of our futures, found employment and with us both nearing retirement age we are looking forward to be able to visit the grown children on the North West Coast, Midwest and presently East Coast. Only time will tell where our youngest will be living, she does know that as a High School Math Teacher (she wants to teach algebra and Calculus) she wants to make an impression on her students and be able to support herself without worry.

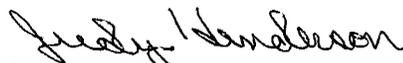
As part of the Baby Boomer Era, we are educated and ready to let the next generation lead our communities, State and Country. We will have Social Security, retirement benefits and our investments. The closing of Pontiac Correctional Center can have a direct impact on our investments since our properties have a value of over \$150,000 and we owe less than \$50,000. Having a mother who just recently turned 80 and has just retired from Real Estate I have a good understanding of property values and the impact of their value when massive homes on the market for sale can drive down the value of our properties. When we are in a current housing market down slump with the forecast not promising adding additional homes available due to the closing of the prison could force us to delay those Golden Years a lot longer.

Since we had 19 years of retail experience, and my husband's experience as an accountant it is very easy for us to understand the economic impact on jobs and business; we did not need to read an economic impact analysis to understand what can happen to a good family orientated community. It is a worry to us to consider what these losses will mean. When there is so many living below the federal poverty level, how many more will be joining those ranks. When looking at the trade off of losing \$45 million to gaining \$47.5 million in another region there simply is not enough difference to make it a profitable impact to the State. What would make it profitable is that both prisons are fully functioning and profitable to the both communities/regions. When there is still a prison overcrowding, when funds are still be paid by the State to house DOC inmates in county facilities; when we need economic stimulus through out the State we need to consider the overall impact on the State by providing jobs in both regions and not take such a small trade off. The proposed savings of closing Stateville of \$31 million verses the \$5 million by closing simply does not make sense.

When looking at the State Budget overall, the Billions of debt and the increased spending I blame everyone for allowing this to continue as long as it has. We need to step back and take a long hard look at ourselves. Making rash, heat of the moment decisions is not good for the entire people of the State. We need to stop and stop now, we need to join forces instead of fighting and develop better plans to make this State a higher ranked leader within these United States.

In closing; I am asking you to reconsider the rationality of closing Pontiac Correctional Facility. If this was 25 years ago and someone asked me if I supported the closing I would have told you, YES, burn it down. But, that judgment would have been a rash decision on my part. I have grown and matured since that fateful day March 18, 1983 when I and my two oldest children were abducted by an escaped convict from this very facility you want to close. I have kept a watchful eye on the improvements and security of the prison and of our community. I have faith that Department of Corrections and the State have learned and improved upon the prison and have learned by what happened to us and to those in The Riot 30 years ago.

Sincerely:



Judy Henderson



Mrs. Judy Henderson  
519 W Reynolds St.  
Pontiac, IL 61764

JUL 29 2008

Vicki Rapp  
12 W Garden Ave.  
Pontiac, IL 61764

To Whom It May Concern,

This is my opinion on the closing of Pontiac Correctional Center and how it will affect my life. My son-in law has been employed there for several years. He has 2 children in the Pontiac Grade Schools. His wife (my only child) works at the Pontiac Post Office. If he can not get transferred to another prison with in a reasonable driving distance, they will have to move. The housing market is not good right now. There are many houses already for sale and if all prison employees are forced to sell, they may be paying 2 mortgage payments for quite a while. Hopefully there won't be any foreclosures (I said hopefully). I personally do not drive out of town. I was born and raised in Pontiac and most of my family lives here. I am widowed and my grandchildren mean the world to me. If they have to relocate I would be lost. My daughter is in the process of applying for a Supervisor role at the Post Office. If she transfers her seniority would change.

If the prison closes all individuals living in Livingston County will be affected. Family members relocating, Schools losing pupils and I'm sure it affects the budget. Housing market will be in worse shape than now. Businesses losing customers.

I have heard rumors that the Govenor made a deal with Stateville Warden and that is how it has stayed open. Can't a few prisoners be transferred from Stateville and Pontiac to lesson the overcrowding and let employees volunteer for transfers?

I am not happy with this Governors choices in other matters. The Mental Health not receiving help.

I work at a rehabilitation center for mentally and physically challenged adults. We are a non-for profit agency. There are many dedicated employees, who have to be for the pay they receive. Many are single parents. I have worked there 15 years and make less than \$12.00 per hour and that is my only income. The Mental Health agencies rely on government help to keep programs going and to be able to give their employees a cost of living increase now and then.

It would make more sense to close more institutions and support CILA's (community independent living arrangement) with agencies like ours.

It cost less for a CILA program than it does to keep someone in an institution. Our agency now has 5 CILA programs and 1 apartment complex. There is the need for more. Our agency also has workshops for production contracts. We also have job coaches who train individuals in community jobs. If you are interested in finding out more about our agency they will gladly give tours.

Futures Unlimited, Inc.  
210 E. Torrance Ave  
Pontiac, IL 61764  
1-815-842-1122  
Brian Blossom - Executive Director  
Karen Donovan - Assistant Director  
Beth Dunahee - Director of Business Development

Sincerely,

Vicki L. Rapp  
12 W. Garden Ave  
Pontiac IL 61764

from Roy W. Moore

Dear Comrades Members I am writing you  
in support of keepig Portico correctional center  
open. As a Retired P.C.C. Employee I can attest  
to the fact that P.C.C. is undict in what  
it does. I worked my last 6 years  
in the Maintenance Dept and I have  
seen inside into the condition of P.C.C.

I Read some of the "estimates on Repairs Needed" <sup>37</sup>  
I don't know how the estimates were compiled  
But I think someone made errors in  
them. As alot of Repairs are made in  
house by the various employees I thus seeing  
the state alot of money even containing outside  
labor. P.C.C. is canch in the devoted  
personell who work there.

If you was to close P.C.C. it would  
Demotiate Portico and many of the surrounding  
communities. it would cause the tax base  
to drop and cause Real estate values to drop.  
It would affect the Business in the area  
to lose Business or close down to close.  
It would affect the schools and churches to  
lose students and memberships.

The schools would lose state and county funds  
due to an drop in students attending them.

The community would lose fire man as they of

The volunteer fire men are employees  
of P.C.C. as are some of the ambulance personnel  
in run of the small communities could position  
themselves for if you close P.C.C. You will not  
only demonstrate the accuracy of livingstone  
community and position and surrounding communities but you  
will be putting a lot of families and  
communities at risk from fire and the loss of  
emergency services.

So please Reconsider and Recheck your facts  
and figures and estimates and you will see that  
closing P.C.C. would be foolish and is not  
an option.

PLEASE DONT DESTROY MY COMMUNITY AND  
COUNTY BY CLOSING P.C.C.

PLEASE HELP US KEEP OUR SCHOOLS OPEN  
AND OUR CHURCHES OPEN AND OUR VOLUNTEER  
FIRE DEPT. AND AGENTS MOTIVATED TO KEEP  
US SAFE. PLEASE HELP US KEEP OUR  
BUSINESS OPEN.

Respectfully Submitted

Ray W Moore

718 W. NORTH

PONTIAC IL. 61764

PH# 1-815-842-2975

July 23, 2008

Senator Dan Rutherford  
320 N Plum St  
Pontiac, Il 61764

Re: Proposed Closing Pontiac Correctional Center

Dear Sir:

Ever since the announcement of the proposed Pontiac Correctional Closing instead of Stateville Prison I have asked myself if this is best for the State, for the community, for the public and for the inmates themselves. I have attended meetings, listened to the media and read the articles published including the Economic Impact Analysis and Director Walker's response to the commission on Government Forecasting and Accountability.

I have formed an opinion and reflected upon the impact directly to my family and to my community. My husband and I have lived in Pontiac since October 1973 when we opened our first retail business with my father as our partner. Over the next 19 years we owned and operated various retail businesses in Pontiac and Bloomington. We have raised four children in Pontiac, the older three are grown, educated and no longer living at home, except for the 24 yr old 2<sup>nd</sup> Lt. US Marine Corps calls Pontiac his base home. The last child will be entering her 2<sup>nd</sup> year of college at Western University. In the years as small business owners we invested ourselves into the community and after many sleepless hours sold or closed our businesses; but continued to invest ourselves to community service. We changed our direction of our futures, found employment and with us both nearing retirement age we are looking forward to be able to visit the grown children on the North West Coast, Midwest and presently East Coast. Only time will tell where our youngest will be living, she does know that as a High School Math Teacher (she wants to teach algebra and Calculus) she wants to make an impression on her students and be able to support herself without worry.

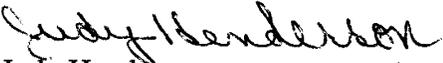
As part of the Baby Boomer Era, we are educated and ready to let the next generation lead our communities, State and Country. We will have Social Security, retirement benefits and our investments. The closing of Pontiac Correctional Center can have a direct impact on our investments since our properties have a value of over \$150,000 and we owe less than \$50,000. Having a mother who just recently turned 80 and has just retired from Real Estate I have a good understanding of property values and the impact of their value when massive homes on the market for sale can drive down the value of our properties. When we are in a current housing market down slump with the forecast not promising adding additional homes available due to the closing of the prison could force us to delay those Golden Years a lot longer.

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Sincerely:

  
Judy Henderson  
519 W Reynolds  
Pontiac, IL 61764

July 23, 2008

①

Dear Governor Blagojevich & COBFA,

I am writing to you regarding the proposed closing of the Pontiac Prison. I do not work there and my knowledge of the prison only comes from what I have read and heard from people who do work there.

I understand that it is a very old prison but I also have been told that it is in very good condition with many more years of good use remaining. It was studied several years ago and was found to be in better condition than Statesville.

I am not suggesting to close Statesville as an alternative but I do question the reasoning behind closing Pontiac instead.

I have heard from so many that it is "all politics" and although I would like to think that is not true I see no other logical explanation. If that is the case it is sad to think that our government that is suppose to be for all people gives some people such little regard.

My reason for not wanting the prison to close is an emotionally drawn reason based on how it will

effect my personal life. My son has worked at Pontiac Prison for 14 years and has established his home and life here. This could possibly force him to move and relocate 3 hours away. This is a distance too far to drive so he would have to move to the area he can hold a position. He would have to sell his home here in a town where homes are not selling and uproot his family and start over again. The children would have to leave their schools and friends. The grandparents would have to miss the little league games and such due to the 3 hour separation.

When the COBFA came out with numbers and percentages for the reports they did not include the extended families in those numbers.

These numbers also do not represent the people who live in the communities that will suffer from the loss of revenue brought in by the prison. Livingston and La Salle Counties need all the jobs they can get.

I realize that the current administration did not authorize the building of the Thompson Prison, but why was Pontiac not considered as the location for that prison if Pontiac was getting too old?

I know there is a new empty prison sitting. I also know the state of Illinois has over crowded prisons that are under staffed.

Would it not make more sense to take the excess prisoners to Thompson and hire workers there? There are enough prisoners for all of the prisons.

If there is no funding in the budget taxes may have to be raised. The state is in a mess and has been for a long time. No, I don't want higher taxes but I am willing to pay them since I don't want the safety of the workers to be compromised.

I will end this by just saying that when you became governor I did understand your not wanting to relocate your family to Springfield. I am hoping you will try to consider the families, extended

④

families and the people of the  
communities as well.

Best Regards,  
Sandy Auckland

May 21, 2008

Governor Rod Blagojevich  
100 W Randolph Street  
Chicago, IL 60601

Dear Governor Blagojevich,

Please let me introduce myself. I am a Daughter, Sister, Wife, Mother and proud Grandmother living in a rural area near Pontiac, Illinois. I was born in Pontiac and have lived my life in this area. My husband and I travel and have seen interesting places and beautiful scenery but have not found anyplace we would really rather live. Pontiac is a thriving community full of friendly and familiar faces.

Pontiac, although not a big city, is the county seat and one of the larger towns in this area supporting numerous smaller farm communities with school, shopping, medical treatment, entertainment, and most importantly jobs.

None of my immediate family is employed by DOC, however, I have seen communities lose business and interest when schools are closed. Would not the closing of a major source of employment be an even bigger negative impact on a community?

I have read that the prisons are currently at 135% capacity. If prisons are closed to save money, what is the plan to alleviate the crowded conditions which have proven to be a dangerous situation for guards and inmates? Early release of felons back into the population has not served the people well in the past. Just ask the families who have been victims of this strategy.

If a functional prison is closed and hundreds are unemployed, how do they support their families? At today's prices minimum wage will not buy food, clothing, rent or pay real estate taxes, gas or vehicle insurance (no public transportation here), medical and dental care, health insurance, utilities, education or the many incidentals that seem to pop up when raising a family. This may and often does lead to desperation, depression, broken homes and STATE AID.

You are the elected governor of the State of Illinois and therefore responsible for making many hard decisions affecting the welfare of all the people of Illinois. Would it really benefit to close state supported facilities needed to insure the safety of citizens for an increase in state supported benefits for desperate families and individuals who would much rather be self sufficient?

I have shared with you my thoughts and concerns and now ask you to picture yourself and family as residents of our community and make a decision based on careful thought and respect due all citizens by their governor.

Respectfully,  
*Mary Leenders*

COPY OF LETTER MAILED 5/21/08

Marilyn Schmidt  
1110 Prairie View Lane  
Pontiac, IL 61764-1229  
Phone 815-844-7410

June 20, 2008

Roger E. Walker, Jr., Director  
Illinois Department of Corrections  
1301 Concordia Court  
P. O. Box 19277  
Springfield, IL 62794-9277

Dear Director Walker:

Today I telephoned your office wanting some information about the IDOC. My call was returned by, Julie requesting that I put my questions in writing. In many ways a taxpayer the IDOC has gotten my attention along with my many friends. It is my understanding that IDOC has been housing inmates in the Cook County facilities and reimbursing Cook County for their generosity. Would you please tell me the number of inmates that we are paying Cook County to house inmates for the State and at what rate is being paid to Cook County per inmate or in total per month? To the best of your knowledge, when did the practice of Cook County housing, state inmates start?

I find the lack of current information on the IDOC internet site leads me to believe it is politically motivated. It is not that you do not have the recent statistics and reports someone has not updated the public. Please have the years from 2003-2004 to 2008 added to the internet information for taxpayers to review. The Department Data and the Financial Impact Statements are missing from 2004 to current. We are now into June of 2008, and the appearance of to have the taxpayers ask for the previous three years is not prudent. From what I read in your bio you took office in 2003, the Assistant Director also in 2003 and the Executive Chief no information given about Sergio Molina or what he is being the Executive Chief over.

Director Walker it doesn't take a rocket scientist to read between the political lines when information pertaining to qualifications is not freely given to the taxpayer. When trying to see how some of the 'Officials' are qualified, not everyone could I find information to their education, previous public service, organization memberships. It would be most helpful to get to know who is overseeing the overseers of the inmates. Your serious consideration to my questions and concerns would be most greatly appreciated.

Sincerely,

Marilyn Schmidt

July 1<sup>st</sup>, 2008

JUL 02 2008

Governor Rod Blagojevich  
James R. Thompson Center  
100 W. Randolph Street, Ste. 16-100  
Chicago, IL 60601

Dear Governor Blagojevich,

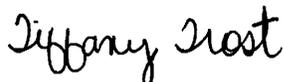
My name is Tiffany Trost and I am a 24 year old graduate student at ISU. My dad, Tim Potts is a Sergeant at Pontiac Prison. Let me tell you a little about my dad. I'm sure you remember the story. He helped save the lives of six prison guards, if not more, back on January 12<sup>th</sup> 1996. He followed standard procedure of a catwalk officer and when the riot broke he made a decision that forever changed the lives of those in my family. Since that inmate died, his life has been threatened many times, but he still went to work every day. (He has over 8 months of sick days saved up, so that shows quite a bit of dedication.) It takes a pretty strong person to face those threats and constantly go back to the place that changed your life, but he does it because Pontiac Correctional Center is the safest place for him and because this job supports his family. My dad is my hero because he has been such a positive influence in my life, showing me what it is to face your fears and at the same time being a strong support for his family.

My family has been through difficult times over the years dealing with what happened that day at the prison and ever since worrying about my dad, but every day after work in Pontiac he took that 45 minute drive home and was with our family. Now, that you have proposed to close the prison our family will be split up. My dad will likely have to choose to go to Thomson over finding another job. He will have to live there separately and possibly only see my three siblings and mom on the weekends. This is going to be extremely hard on my family because my mom works two jobs. She leaves for her second job not too long before my dad gets home from work. So, there was a parent at home with my 11-year old brother. But, that will all change the day he goes to the other prison. You may ask why he just doesn't find another job, but would you want to throw away everything you have built up during those 15+ years you have spent at your job? Early retirement and pension are just a few of those important things.

The bottom line is that Pontiac prison is the lifeline of many good, hard working families in our area. By closing the prison, you are expecting these families to either split up or pick up and move to another town. I'm sure since you are also a family man that you would understand the implications that such a decision has. Not everyone can afford to move their families to another town, let alone sell their homes in our volatile housing market. These families of the individuals who work at the prison and the community members in Pontiac and surrounding towns have rallied together to show just how much Pontiac Prison means to the them. They have had a parade, which you were invited to , as well as a picture taken with over 1,000 people who do not want to see the prison close.

I am asking you, like many signs that are posted around the community to **SAVE PONTIAC PRISON**. Please do the right thing and keep my family and other families together as one. The Prison is the life-line and support of many families in our area. Think about having to see your family only 52 weekends out of the year. What decision would you make then?

Sincerely,



Tiffany Trost

May 14, 2008

Governor Rod Blagojevich  
James R. Thompson Center  
100 W. Randolph Street Ste. 16-100  
Chicago, IL 60601

Dear Governor Blagojevich,

I am writing to you concerning the proposed closing of the Pontiac Correctional Center. This center has been one of the major employers of Livingston County and surrounding counties for the last 100+ years.

Growing up in this County, one of my neighbors was employed at the Correctional Center. That was at the time when residents of the center worked on the prison farm. In addition to the farming, chores had to be done and cows had to be milked. My neighbor worked for the Correctional Center to supplement his small farming operation so that there was sufficient money to support his family.

I currently have a neighbor who is a guard at the Pontiac Correctional Center. He, his wife, and two small children live on the family farm. They are not large farmers so they are using the income to support their family.

Those people mentioned above would be unable to move to another area to work at a correctional institution - because of their strong ties to the Community. They grew up here - have property here - have family here and want to raise their own family here.

Many other families would be forced to move from Livingston County and the surrounding counties. As an assessing official in Livingston County, I understand that the loss of one of the larger employers would result in lowering the market value of homes - based on supply and demand. The domino effect would be fewer residents, lower market values, and the loss of other businesses in Livingston County and

Surrounding Counties

The location of the Correctional Center in Pontiac is advantageous for the State of Illinois. Its close proximity to Chicago, ready and able work force, and ground that is already owned by the State are just some of the advantages to be considered for keeping the Pontiac Correctional Center here.

I would appreciate your consideration of my thoughts on this matter. It is my belief that the Pontiac Correctional Center remain open in Pontiac.

Sincerely,

Duane C. Kissel

copy  
F42

June 16, 2008

Governor Rod Blagojevick  
Office of the Governor  
207 State House  
Springfield, IL 62706

JUN 18 2008

RE: Closing Pontiac Prison

Dear Governor Blagojevick,

I have never written to you or any other governor. This issue is of utmost importance to me, as a mother of one of the inmates at Pontiac Correctional, and to my entire family as well.

PLEASE DO NOT CLOSE PONTIAC CORRECTIONAL. My husband and I as well as numerous other family members are from Streator. This enables us to be active participants in our son's life. Moving him to Thomson would create a severe financial and physical hardship on us due to my husband's poor health.

I read in the paper that closing Stateville would have saved the State 40 million

dollars, but closing Pontiac would only save 5 million dollars. The closing of Pontiac would cripple the local economies of the small communities close to Pontiac including the Streator areas. Numerous ~~guards~~ reside in Streator. Families would be uprooted and forced to move or find work in an area where there are few jobs.

Please consider lowering the overcrowding at prisons statewide by sending the excess of inmates + new inmates to Thomson.

I voted for you 2 times.

Sincerely

Kathy Smetanko

213 S. Monroe St, Apt 2

Streator IL 61364

MAY 14 2008

Trisha Linn  
333 Wartburg Place  
Dubuque, IA 52003

Governor Rod Blagojevich  
James R. Thompson Center  
100 W. Randolph Street, Ste. 16-100  
Chicago, IL 60601

Dear Governor Rod Blagojevich,

As a proud, voting citizen of Illinois, and the sister of a correctional facilities officer, I was alarmed when I read of the plans you have made to close the Pontiac Correctional Facility. While I am cognizant of the strains of the state budget, I do not believe that closing a prison is the best choice to make to begin to rectify the situation in the state. My brother no longer works at Pontiac, but he holds in high esteem many of his old co-workers. They deserve a job, Governor. The Pontiac community does not deserve to have their economy pulled out from under them like a rug. With gas prices affecting commutes, food prices, and virtually every other aspect of life, the people are hurting. If the prison were to close, it would affect a large number of area residents; not only taking away their livelihoods, but also putting further budget constraints on already tightened belts. The situation in prisons across the state is a dire one. There is over-crowding in many of them, which puts the workers at risk; that puts my brother at risk. The people who are institutionalized at Pontiac have committed serious crimes, thus Pontiac's status as a maximum facility prison. Can the population be absorbed by other maximum facility prisons in order that these dangerous people are not housed with less violent offenders? Will the workers at the other prisons be forced to work even longer hours and more mandatory overtime because of even more crowding? Is the state government prepared to implement policies to offer assistance to the families of the guards who will be without work, or who will be forced to drive far distances when gas is over \$3.50 in an already hurting economy? The overarching point here is, "Will the benefits of closing Pontiac Correctional Facility outweigh the risks?" I think not. Many of the prison guards at Pontiac were your advocates when you were running for governor. They put signs in their yards, made financial and time contributions, and then went out and voted for you in confidence that your ideas and leadership would help the state, would help the Pontiac community, and would help them. Don't make them lose their confidence.

Respectfully,



Trisha Linn  
cc: Senator Dan Rutherford  
320 N. Plum Street  
Pontiac, IL 61764

5/20/2008

Dear Governor Blagojevich,

I am writing in concern to the closing of Pontiac Correctional Center. I hope that you will reconsider your decision once you hear how much it will affect not only Livingston County, but all of Central Illinois.

If Pontiac Prison is closed 3 people very close to me will lose their jobs. If they lose their jobs, their whole family will suffer. My brother-in-law is a guard there, he has two little girls at home to provide for. My neices are 1-year old and almost 4 years old. They rely on their parents for everything, if he loses his job, they will suffer. His mom, my neices' grandmother also works there. She is supporting one child still at home and does it alone.

My best friend's mom is the Warden's Secretary. If she loses her job, she will no longer be able to help her single daughter, who is a mother of four. Or her son, who is also a single father of one. She still has one child at home and one in college. Their whole life would be shattered if the prison were to close.

This just gives a small look at the effect this would have on so many families in Illinois. I also have 2 neighbors that live in Woodford County but drive to Pontiac to work at the Prison. This would have an impact on many towns in many counties.

I know many businesses in Pontiac that probably wouldn't be able to keep their doors open without the customers, that are also prison employees.

This decision could hurt so many employees, their families, and many other businesses.

Please consider doing something else to help with the problem. You might be surprised ~~to~~ how much the residents would be willing to help. If you ever make the drive to Pontiac, you will be overwhelmed by the amount of support the community is providing. No one in the area wants to see what Pontiac would be like without the Prison.

Thank you for your consideration to this matter.

Yours,

Jacilyn Masters

Jacilyn Masters

Age 20

Flanagan High School Alumni

664 E 1900 N. Rd

Flanagan, IL 61740



811 W. Water Street  
Pontiac, IL 61764  
May 19, 2008

Governor Rod Blagojevich  
James R. Thompson Center  
100 W. Randolph Street STE 16-100  
Chicago IL, 60601  
Dear Honorable Governor Blagojevich,

It is my belief that it would be an unwise decision to shut down the Pontiac correctional center. The economic slump could prove disastrous for the city due to many consumers being forced to leave town. The families whose jobs would be lost could very well never recover from this grievous wound. Those who received the blessing of a transfer could cause an overabundance in demand and a lack of supply in their respective cities. With these thoughts in mind I humbly request you reconsider your decision. Thank you for your time.

Lincoln  
Master Levi Arnold Shawlow (Age 15)

6-22-08

Honorable Blagojevich,

My name is Lundy Croft and I am employed at the Pontiac Correctional Center.

Closing Pontiac Prison has the opportunity to put app. 550 people out of work, app. 200 houses up for sale, plus hurt sales on a continually rising inflation.

There is not a benefit to closing Pontiac. When you consider if you took the offenders from Cook County (that is over crowded) to Thompson you could save the State of Illinois money and still open Thompson.

Pontiac Prison has been kept updated and does not have any condemned buildings as another facility does.

Personally I do not see a need to any prison closing as the economy is taking a grim outlook as prices are rising in the standard of living, such as crude oil. Until the economy is repaired, more criminals are being created.

I am looking for you to keep your word as not to balance the budget on the backs of state employees. Nor do I wish our community and surrounding communities to suffer due to the closing of Pontiac.

Thank you for your time

Sincerely,

Lundy Croft

MAY 21 2008

Tim Johnson  
202 Polk St.  
Pontiac, IL. 61764  
May 18, 2008  
Re: SB2288

Senator Dan Rutherford  
220 W. Howard St.  
Pontiac, IL. 61764

Dear Senator Rutherford,

First of all, I would like to thank you for all you have done as senator of Illinois. You have helped this state in so many ways, but above all, thank you for helping try to save Pontiac prison. I am friends with some people who work there, and they would be crushed if they lost their jobs. If Pontiac loses the prison, the town will be devastated. That is a pretty big hit to take for a town the size of Pontiac, and I am glad you are trying to save it.

I am writing you this letter because I am concerned about Senate Bill 2288. I believe all students are entitled to the same amount of resources and school supplies as the next, regardless of how much money the school gets. Some schools make a lot of money, and kids carry laptops to every class. Other schools barely have enough money to keep their school standing. What makes the rich school students better than the poor ones? I'll tell you what. Nothing makes them better. The poor school students have the right to nice school resources as well as the rich school kids.

I have been thinking about this subject and have been reading up on it. I have found a solution. The solution is very simple. Vote yes. By voting yes, the poor kids will get their chance. They will have the same amount of resources as the rich ones. Don't they deserve it? I think they do.

Sincerely,

*Tim Johnson.*

Tim Johnson

JUN 10 2008

May 28, 2008

Dear Governor Blagojevich,

We are writing this letter in response to your decision to close Pontiac Correctional Center. We are very concerned about the effects the closing will have on our entire community, Pontiac, surrounding towns and Livingston County. We feel it is wrong to close any prison with the current overcrowding situation, but why Pontiac? There was logical proof given that Statesville was the proper choice economically and Joliet would much easier withstand the closer.

We have no close friends or relatives working there, but we know the closing will be devastating to those affected. Employees will lose their jobs or be forced to transfer, leaving behind family, elderly parents, friends, church families, their entire lifestyle. Kids will be torn from family, schools and friends.

The entire community will suffer. Pontiac Correctional Center is one of our largest employers. Our economy will suffer, our property values will drop and our services will be affected. We already have had layoffs at Interlake Steele and Livingston Manor is closing. We can not afford to lose more jobs. Healthcare in Livingston County may be put at risk. We have a nursing shortage at St. James Hospital. How many RNs, respiratory, lab and radiology techs will we lose?

And there are many other factors. One example is that one of the best restaurants in town is owned and operated by

• The wife of a prison employe, so now it is at risk also, leaving another empty downtown building and more people out of work. The snowball effect cannot be fully measured.

Please reconsider your decision Pontiac and Livingston County need Pontiac Correctional Center to remain open. We may not recover from a closer. And the state of Illinois needs Pontiac to remain open.

Sincerely,

Gary and Carol Dearth  
Pontiac, Il.

June 25, 2008

To Governor Blagojevich:

My husband and I are senior citizens, and we ask you to keep Pontiac Prison open.

The young couples that we know are terribly worried, that Pontiac Prison will not be kept open. So many people are employed there from Pontiac and surrounding towns. Couples with young children will be forced to move away. Jobs are difficult to find, and families are quite desperate.

The economy of Pontiac largely depends on the employment at Pontiac Prison. Restaurants and other businesses may be forced to close.

We have been residents of Pontiac all our lives. We know firsthand what Pontiac Prison has meant to the economy of Pontiac.

Please reconsider your decision.

Respectfully,  
Mary Lou Meng  
Alfred H. Meng

COPY OF LETTER SENT

JUN 10 2008

June 8, 2008

Governor Rod Blagojevich  
James R. Thompson Center  
100 W. Randolph St. - Suite 16-100  
Chicago, IL 60601

Dear Governor Blagojevich:

My name is Peggie A. Parker and I am a 23-year employee of the Pontiac Correctional Center that you are considering closing. I respectfully request that you reconsider this decision as it would be devastating both for me personally and for my community.

I am an Office Assistant with an annual income of approximately \$40,000. I am also divorced, age 50, and have only my income on which to live, both now and for my retirement. I bought a condo in Pontiac two years ago with money that I inherited when my father passed away. This is my first home. Prior to that, I lived in a mobile home for 30 years.

If you were to close Pontiac, I couldn't afford to commute to another facility even if a job was made available. I would be forced to take early retirement at a significant reduction in my pension. I had planned to work another 5-10 years to maximize my pension amount as that is all I have to live on for the rest of my life. If I were forced to retire now, I would only get about 60% of my pay. How can I possibly live on that with the increased cost of living in the past few years? I struggle now to pay my utilities, taxes, buy groceries, and put gas in my car.

Please don't do this to me and to our town. People's lives are at stake. These are people who have served the state in a job that is dangerous, stressful, and difficult, especially with the hiring freeze of many years. We are understaffed and we work very hard at our jobs. We just want to pay our bills and stay in our community and take care of our families. Thank you.

*Peggie A. Parker*

Peggie A. Parker  
704 N. Deerfield Road  
Pontiac, IL 61764-9374

5-20-08

MAY 27 2008

Dear Gov. Rod Blagojevich,

My name is Timothy J Bowden and I am an employee at Pontiac C.C. I am writing this letter to urge you to keep our great prison open. I have a wife and four kids and live in Fairbury Ill. My wife Carissa works at OSF Saint James hospital in Pontiac, I have lived here my whole life. I do not want to move or take my kids out of one of the best schools in the state. I went to Prairie Central school district and want nothing more for my children. This is a great community and it is in great jeopardy if Pontiac Prison closes. I own my house here as do my parents, brother, and many correctional employees. Most of the money I spend is local from the groceries to the cars I buy. The economy is not very strong right anyway, and this community can not take this prison closing. I really like where I work, it is a good prison and is very safe. There are great officers and other staff here who really care about where they work and their community. Please keep our very safe and very functional prison open.

Sincerely

Timothy J Bowden

+  
Family

May 21, 2008

Governor Blagojevich:

We are writing with reference to your decision to close our Illinois State Penitentiary, Pontiac Branch. We believe this would be a horrible injustice to the 500 plus employees who would lose their jobs and not be able to support their families. This would also have a dire effect on local businesses and schools, who are also struggling in this weak economy.

Even though this institution is over 100 years old, it has been upgraded, along with our Court-house over the past 50 years.

I, personally have worked at the Correctional Center, as a heating and Air Conditioning Contractor for the past 40 years, and have always found the institution to be in A-1 condition for the employees and the inmates.

We sincerely hope you will take these facts into consideration, and study its history, before you make any final judgement.

Thank You!

Owen J. Lyons  
Pat Lyons

17864 & 1700 North Rd.  
Pontiac, Ill. 61764

5/24/08

Dear Governor Blagojevich

I am writing this letter asking for you to keep Pontiac Correctional Center open. My name is Todd Best and I am currently employed with the Illinois Department of Corrections in Vandalia, Illinois.

Pontiac Correctional Center has long been a vital facility in the Illinois Department of Corrections. It is an old facility but very clean, in good repair, and ran very well. Many of the employees have been there for a number of years working with very dangerous offenders. They know their jobs and do them well. I have the utmost respect for these correctional officers. It is a facility used to house the vilest of offenders and a deterrent to inmates in other facilities.

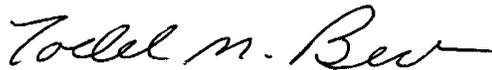
As an IDOC employee who also went through the threat of a closure at my facility, I know how this impending closure is affecting the employees and their families. They will be forced to put all their plans on hold, a summer vacation with their family, a new home, new car, etc. This is a terrible way to treat these people after the service they have given to the state of Illinois. The economy of this country is already at record lows and these individuals should not have to suffer further as a result of a closure.

This is economically, a poor decision. Why close down a facility that is already established, is clean, in working order, and has trained employees to run it?

I am asking that you please leave this facility open. Save Pontiac Correctional Center, Livingston County, and the people who live, work, and VOTE there.

Thank you for your time and support.

Sincerely,



Todd Best  
818 North 6<sup>th</sup> Street  
Vandalia, Illinois 62471

Cc:

Representative Kurt Granberg  
Representative Ron Stephens  
Senator Frank C. Watson  
Representative John O. Jones  
Representative Gary Hannig  
Senator Deanna Demuzio  
Senator Dan Rutherford

May 17, 2008

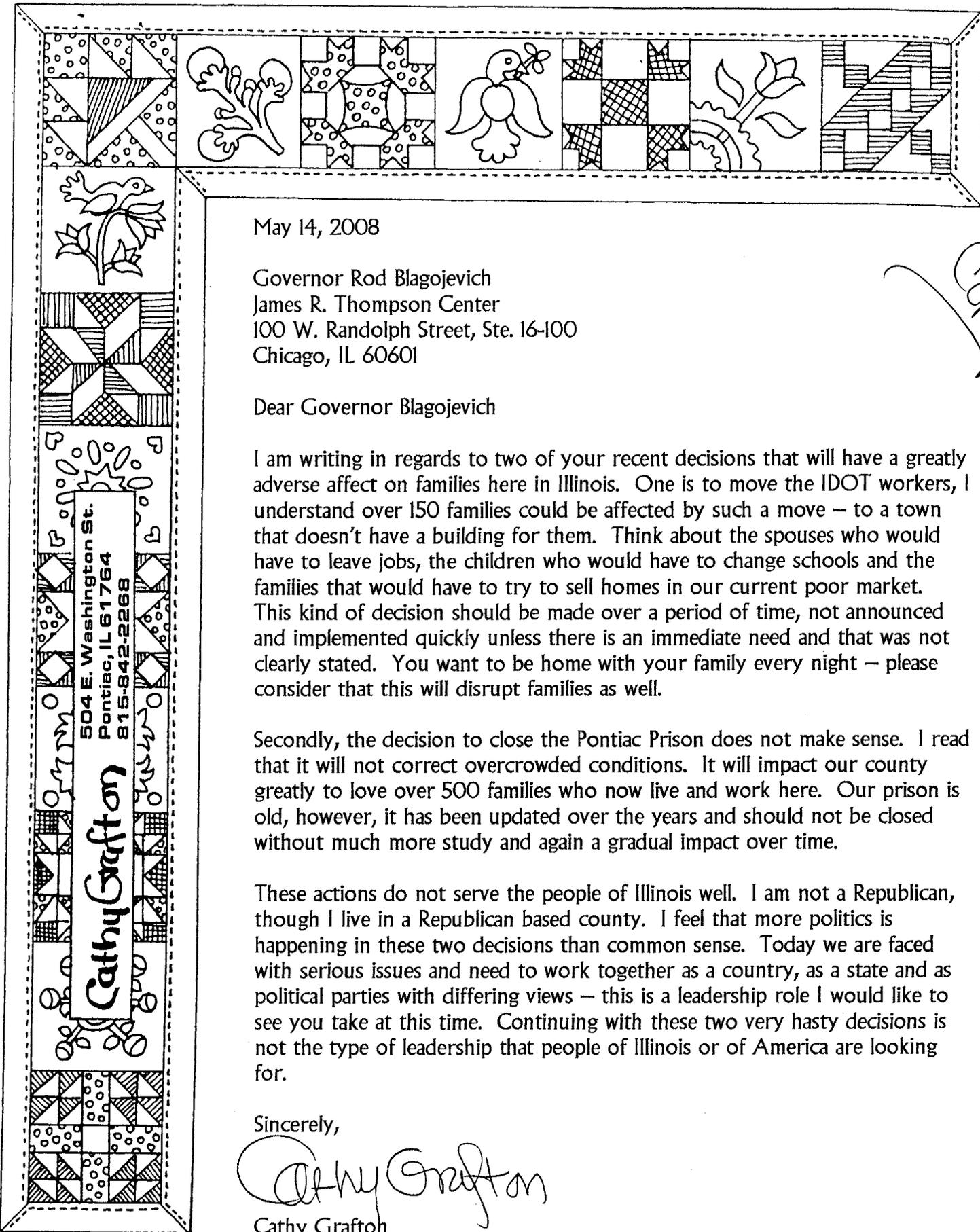
Dear Governor Blagojevich

Please do not close the Pontiac Correctional Center. I have friends who live in Pontiac and it will really hurt their business and town.

While I have your attention, I have also lived in Springfield, Illinois and I would hate to see the IDOT moved to Southern Illinois. Since our state already has the buildings, building new IDOT facilities would be money spent that could be (Other Side) used for roads

Thanking you in advance.

Sincerely,  
Sandra B. Johnson  
678 Saturn  
Celeburg, IL 61401



May 14, 2008

Governor Rod Blagojevich  
James R. Thompson Center  
100 W. Randolph Street, Ste. 16-100  
Chicago, IL 60601

*Cathy*

Dear Governor Blagojevich

I am writing in regards to two of your recent decisions that will have a greatly adverse affect on families here in Illinois. One is to move the IDOT workers, I understand over 150 families could be affected by such a move – to a town that doesn't have a building for them. Think about the spouses who would have to leave jobs, the children who would have to change schools and the families that would have to try to sell homes in our current poor market. This kind of decision should be made over a period of time, not announced and implemented quickly unless there is an immediate need and that was not clearly stated. You want to be home with your family every night – please consider that this will disrupt families as well.

Secondly, the decision to close the Pontiac Prison does not make sense. I read that it will not correct overcrowded conditions. It will impact our county greatly to love over 500 families who now live and work here. Our prison is old, however, it has been updated over the years and should not be closed without much more study and again a gradual impact over time.

These actions do not serve the people of Illinois well. I am not a Republican, though I live in a Republican based county. I feel that more politics is happening in these two decisions than common sense. Today we are faced with serious issues and need to work together as a country, as a state and as political parties with differing views – this is a leadership role I would like to see you take at this time. Continuing with these two very hasty decisions is not the type of leadership that people of Illinois or of America are looking for.

Sincerely,

*Cathy Grafton*  
Cathy Grafton

①

"How Dare You"

5/13/08

I really do not know how to start this letter. Beside the fact that I am appalled. The nerve, the inconsideration you as our Governor and those whom stand behind you once again in another scandalous act of inhumanity. You ask why inhumanity. It is completely inhumane for you or anyone else to think of yourselves, instead of thinking about all of the many other lives of people you will affect in closing down Pontiac Correctional Center or any other Correctional Facility.

Let's Start Here -

1 - "Overcrowding of Prisons" - You lets close down a prison due to overcrowding to move inmates to another just to cause overcrowding in those prisons sometime in the near future. What will you do then?

2 - "Family" - Closing down Pontiac or any other prison is going to cause our officers to have to move away from their families. As a family person, I

2

will be truly P.O.<sup>d</sup> if I have to stand back and watch two brother-in-laws, two sister-in-laws, two nieces and a nephew move away to where I would only see them once in a blue moon. I (we) are not 'You'. We are not provided with a private jet to go back and forth to be with our loved ones.

3 - "Our Community" - The businesses that will go down. Businesses will lose customers, owners and profit due to the closing of P.C.C. But I guess you have never paid attention or heard of the Consumer Reports. Pay attention to them if Pontiac does get closed.

4 - "M & M E U" -

Sure lets save money like that is something you really know how to do. My 5 year old knows how to save money do you need some tips? You are being provided with a private jet (that us) the tax payers are paying for (which is how many millions) for you to travel

(3)

back and forth from Springfield to Chicago to be with your loved ones. Our officers don't have that their wives/husband will have to move with their families so that they can follow their careers. Apparently your wife or you do not understand the responsibilities that come with yours. You are receiving two free homes that we are also paying for. Do our officers get that? NO! Should we have to pay for that? NO!

### 'A Story of My Dad'

My Dad who started at P.C.C. in the early '80<sup>s</sup> whom is now an employee at Stateville (you remember that one it's the one you first had on market for closing) is the reason we moved to Pontiac. If he never pursued his career at Pontiac I would not have the family as I have now. Pontiac is where I started my family my husband and (6) children will be deeply affected along with many other children and their moms, dads, aunts, uncles & grandparents. Does that matter to you? NO! What does matter to you? As long

(4)

as we keep providing to support your living your family life will go on no. A real Governor worries and cares for his/her people. As does our 53<sup>rd</sup> District Senator Dan Rutherford. He is the man who should be where you are. He cares for his community, his people. Sit back and watch him in action - maybe you could learn something I know I have and will continue to learn from him. He is an idyllic person and in my eyes and many others a hero and you are the villain.

As for the inmates at P.C.C. No matter what they did to become an inmate I am a forgiving person not forgetting but forgiving. You are taking a majority of their homes away that's where they have been housed for years and you have no problem to take that away to.

P.C.C. is not just historical because of its age it is historical as so many ways. P.C.C. is going to be the answer when my children

5

grow and ask why did we ever  
move to Pontiac? Why did we stay  
in Pontiac? How did you & why did  
you meet Daddy?

(P.C.C.) Pontiac Correctional  
Center will be the answer for me.  
How can you answer these questions  
No, I didn't think so.

Frank Brockett  
Pontiac MI

P.S. I am only 25 years old I don't  
know much about politics but I do know  
what is right or wrong. §

And this is beyond wrong!

PONTIAC IL

5-29-08

GOVERNOR:

WHEN YOU RAN FOR OFFICE THE FIRST TIME YOU MADE SEVERAL CAMPAIGN PROMISES, TWO OF WHICH WERE THAT YOU "WOULD NOT BALANCE THE STATE BUDGET ON THE BACKS OF THE STATE WORKERS!" AND YOU WOULD "NOT CLOSE ANY MORE FACILITIES." SINCE YOU HAVE BEEN IN OFFICE THAT IS ALL YOU HAVE DONE. THIS MAKES YOU A LIAR. OUR PRISONS ARE OVERCROWDED AND UNDERSTAFFED BECAUSE OF YOU! KEEP YOUR WORD! GOVERNOR!!!

DON'T TAKE OUT YOUR PERSONAL POLITICAL VENDETTAS ON THE LITTLE GUY, THE AVERAGE WORKING CITIZEN. YOU SUPPOSED TO LOOK OUT FOR US. IF YOU CLOSE PONTIAC PRISON YOU WILL BE HURTING THOUSANDS OF PEOPLE. WHAT'S WRONG WITH YOU ANYWAY?

SINCERELY,

LANCE D. CHAMPLAIN

P.S. I AM GOING TO DEVOTE EVERY MINUTE OF MY SPARE TIME TO CAMPAIGN FOR AND SUPPORT WHO EVER HAS THE BEST CHANCE OF DEFEATING YOU IN THE NEXT ELECTION, REPUBLICAN OR DEMOCRAT! YOU SHOULD BE IMPRISONED!

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

May 28, 2008

Governor Rod Blagojevich  
James R. Thompson Center  
100 W. Randolph Street Ste. 16-100  
Chicago, IL 60601

Dear Governor Blagojevich:

I am 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

JUN 02 2008

Dear Senator Rutherford

I am enclosing a letter I sent to Governor Blagojevich about the closing of the Pontiac prison. Thank you for your efforts in keeping the prison open. You do a great job representing our district and I wish you continued success.

Thank you,

Jeff Eilts  
1105 Bilger St.  
Streator IL 61364

Dear Governor Blagojevich

When you took over as Governor of Illinois you inherited a mess from the previous administration. I thought that whoever took your job would have to be a very brave person because it was a no win situation. I realize that you have many hard decisions to make as governor but I don't think that closing the Pontiac Correctional Center is the right choice.

I have been employed at the prison for fifteen years and enjoy the area with my family very much. The staff at this prison are the finest people I have ever met and I would trust my life with them and do everyday. The staff at Pontiac meet every challenge both professional and personal that is put their way. Pontiac has been understaffed for years but everyone steps up and ~~stiff~~ gets everything done in a safe and timely manner. Closing this prison would hurt many of these fine people.

The Illinois prison population will continue to grow and eventually there will be a need for more prisons. If the Pontiac prison is closed and routine maintenance is not kept up then it will no longer be

Feasible to ever use it again. When Thomson Correctional Center is full sometime in the future a new prison will have to be built and this will probably cost more in the long run.

Governor, you of all people should realize the hardship and stress of having to move a family. When you took office you had the choice not to uproot your family so please don't make these five hundred plus families move and relocate.

Sir, thank you for listening and good luck in running this fine state.

Sincerely,  
Jeff Eilts  
Jeff Eilts

JUN 03 2008

May 28, 2008

Governor Rod Blagojevich  
James K. Thompson Center  
100 W. Randolph Street, Ste 16-100  
Chicago, IL 60601

Dear Governor Blagojevich,

I am writing to you regarding the proposed  
closing of the Fortuin Correctional Center.

Although I have no direct family members  
working at the Fortuin Correctional Center,  
I know quite a few young men that grew  
up with my children and are employed  
at the correctional center. These young  
men chose to remain living in Fortuin  
because they felt it was a good place to live  
and raise families. They chose to seek  
employment in their community. Many of  
them have started families, purchased  
homes and are trying to make a good life.  
Closing this correctional center will cause  
many families great financial and  
personal difficulties.

The proposed closing will greatly affect

our community. The proposed loss of employment will impact every business in Livingston County along with other neighboring counties. How many businesses would close? How many people would be unemployed? How many could afford to relocate if they found other employment? If they chose to stay in Livingston County, could they afford the gas prices to commute? Who would buy homes in Livingston County? How many foreclosures would there be?

Thank you for reconsidering your proposal for closing the Future Correctional Center.

Sincerely,

Debra L. Gusa

JUN 05 2008

Dr. and Mrs. Joseph Gerwin  
705 South Locust Street  
Pontiac IL 61764  
(815) 842-2486  
[gerwin@mchsi.com](mailto:gerwin@mchsi.com)

June 4, 2008

The Honorable Rod Blagojevich  
Office of the Governor  
James R. Thompson Center  
100 W. Randolph Street, Ste. 16-100  
Chicago, IL 60601

Dear Governor Blagojevich:

Please do not close Pontiac Correctional Center. It is an integral part of the economy of the City of Pontiac and Livingston County. We live about 6 blocks away from the prison. I know many who work there. The immediate impact on our family of four would include:

(1) a reduction in "paying customers" at OSF St. James-John W. Albrecht Medical Center, where my husband is a doctor. OSF serves all patients in need, regardless of their ability to pay. Recently, we have seen an influx of charity patients moving here from the Chicago metro area and the hospital faces significant financial strain in serving these citizens. In contrast, PCC employees have good jobs with benefits. Our hospital and the medical groups that work there cannot afford to lose patients that pay their medical bills. If the hospital became unprofitable, it would likely be converted to a "pack and ship" rural triage center. The loss of a full service charity hospital in this rural, economically disadvantaged and elderly community would be devastating, of course, with far-reaching impacts.

(2) loss of students at our schools, with a concomitant loss of funding. Our youngest child is still in school at Pontiac Township High School. According to reports, of the 550 employees, about 250 live here in Pontiac. My kids have gone to school with their children. I don't know how many children would have to move away, but it would be a lot. Of course, if they stayed but their parents didn't have jobs anymore, that would also burden the schools with more students falling below the poverty line. We are already struggling to deal with a 40-50% poverty rate among grade school students.

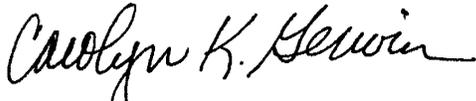
(3) likely closure of local businesses due to loss of customers with good jobs, requiring our family to drive 35 miles to the nearest city with such services (printing, auto repair, clothing shops, office supplies, etc.). Closure of even a few of our restaurants would severely limit our choices in that regard. Loss of any of our businesses would make the community less attractive to other new businesses as well as new residents.

I am sure there are other impacts – direct and indirect – that I can't even anticipate at this time.

I know from personal experience that we have lots of people that need to be incarcerated in Illinois and our prisons are more than full. My understanding is that prisons are currently at 135% capacity so closing Pontiac Correctional Center makes no sense. Public safety is a primary concern of everyone in Illinois. This is one use of my tax dollars that I happen to agree with. I can't imagine why we would even think about closing *any* of our prisons under the circumstances.

Please review all the information, including economic studies, before you make any final decision. I hope you will reconsider and decide NOT to close Pontiac Correctional Center.

Yours truly,



Carolyn K. Gerwin

cc: The Honorable Keith Sommer  
121 West Jefferson Street  
Morton, IL 61550

The Honorable Shane Cultra  
104 West Lincoln Avenue  
Onarga, IL 60955

The Honorable Michael J. Madigan  
Speaker of the House  
300 Capitol Building  
Springfield, IL 62706

The Honorable Dan Rutherford  
320 N. Plum Street  
Pontiac, IL 61764

CHARLOTTE FORD  
15 RAPP COURT  
PONTIAC IL 61764

815-842-3422  
MONCHAR@ROUTE24.NET

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June 5, 2008

Governor Blagojevich  
Office of the Governor  
207 State House  
Springfield IL 62706

Dear Governor,

I am very concerned about your decision to close Pontiac Prison. My son works at the prison. His wife has MS. It would be terrible for them if he lost his job. She is unable to work and they have two children. Her mother and father live next door, and are there to help when she needs it. I live about eight miles away and I also try to help when ever I can. If they had to move for him to keep working that would be terrible and very hard for us to help her.

The town of Pontiac would have a very hard time keeping the stores open without the Prison workers. Our schools have many children in them whose mothers and fathers work at the prison. Our economy in Pontiac will suffer. The Cities around Pontiac will also suffer. The state will suffer as it loses tax money.

The Prisons are overcrowded throughout the state. Crime will escalate in the future because of higher prices and the overall economy. It does not make sense to close any prisons at this time. I am sure you can fill Thompson with the 35% of prisoners that are in the crowded prisons. The state will save \$4 million by closing Pontiac Prison. You want to spend \$34 billion on construction plans. A little less construction and the lives and business of Livingston County will be better off by keeping the Pontiac Prison open.

The residents of ASTA CARE Nursing home, many in wheelchairs marched in a parade to SAVE PONTIAC PRISON. The results of your decision on Pontiac Prison will affect so many people. PLEASE SAVE PONTIAC PRISON.

Sincerely,



Charlotte Ford

June 10, 2008

Dear Governor Blagojevich,

The purpose of this letter is to ask you to reconsider the potential closing of the Pontiac Correctional Center.

The City of Pontiac simply cannot survive the closure of the facility. As you know, Pontiac is still recovering from the January flood. Interlake Inc, another large employer, recently suspended its night shift due to the poor economic climate.

**Pontiac Prison must stay open!**

Thank you for your attention.

Jim and Mary Carroll  
17207 N. 1090 East Road  
Pontiac, Il. 61764

Diane Pawlowski  
105 W. Locust – P.O. Box 166  
Fairbury IL 61739

Governor Rod Blagojevich  
James R. Thompson Center  
100 W. Randolph Street – Ste 16-100  
Chicago IL 60601

June 11, 2008

JUN 13 2008

To Governor Blagojevich,

I live in Fairbury, Illinois (population 4000) and although I have no direct connection to the Pontiac Prison, I feel compelled to make my little voice heard at the state government level.

I was born and raised in Michigan, a state whose current economic suffering appears unconquerable. My husband and I moved to Fairbury 15 years ago and instantly fell in love with all that small town life has to offer here in Central Illinois. I fear that, if the Pontiac Prison is closed, the impact on Central Illinois will be devastating and also unconquerable. The key to conquering a problem is not allowing it to get to that point of no return where there are no options or hope.

I can see the big picture and hope you will soon realize that closing a prison is NOT the answer to whatever economic woes are occurring at the state level. I have read that all the prisons are over capacity so it just doesn't make any sense to close one of them. The loss of jobs that will occur from the closing of the Pontiac Prison will take its toll on the businesses of the area which will then impact even more jobs. For those who decide to stay, how will they survive? Will they need public assistance, or in extreme cases, turn to crime, which will require even more prison space? For the unemployed who find it necessary to leave, how many ghost towns will they create? If you think there are economic problems now, losing all those taxpayers won't make it any better.

There are some really great businesses in Fairbury like an amazing independent grocery store that draws customers from 50 miles or more away. It is a major employer in this town. Closing the prison in Pontiac will impact all the grocery stores of the area. Will Fairbury see the end of Dave's SuperMarket after a business life of over 50 years?

The utopia that can be found in small town life here in Central Illinois is very precious to thousands of people. It should be protected. Please don't swing that axe and close the Pontiac Prison because by doing so you will be "killing the community".

Sincerely,

*Diane Pawlowski*

Copy for Dan Rutnerford

JUN 13 2008

Governor  
Rod Blagojevich  
207 State House  
Springfield, IL 62706

June 12, 2008

Dear Sir:

With hundreds of citizens and community leaders, I was taken back when you announced the closing of the Pontiac Correctional Center!

In the 24 years I have lived in Pontiac as a professional, I have become aware of the benefits this facility brings to Pontiac, Livingston County, and greater Illinois. The Pontiac Correctional Center is an integral part of Livingston County's economy, providing 600 jobs, and the purchasing of goods and services from many local businesses.

I am told, the Pontiac Correctional Center is the only maximum security facility in the state to provide single cells for most of the inmates who require that type of security. Other facilities would require significant, costly retooling.

Any closure would necessitate hundreds of employees to relocate to distant parts of the state, away from families, or even lose their jobs altogether, causing untold emotional upheaval in their lives.

Furthermore, the jobs provided at the Pontiac Correctional Center pay adequate wages and benefits which engender economic stability to the many communities in Livingston County where her employees reside with their families and friends.

Therefore, I want to express my frustration with the planned closure and plead with you, Governor Blagojevich, to reconsider and halt any plans to close this functional facility for housing a menacing criminal population in an otherwise successful enterprise.

Respectfully submitted,

Frank Deninger

Dr. Frank Deninger  
Livingston County Board Member  
606 Carol Ct.  
Pontiac, IL 61764-9655  
815-844-3078

JUN 17 2008

June 14, 2008

Dear Governor Blagojevich,

As a concerned citizen, and a long-time taxpayer and voter, I am asking you to please keep Pontiac Correctional Center open. It is much needed and a well-run facility.

It would be devastating to Pontiac and Livingston County, where employees live and are raising families. The economy of this area depends immensely on the prison in Pontiac. As the wise old saying goes "if it ain't broke, don't fix it." This applies to many things in this world, including not closing Pontiac Prison, which is an established institution and vital to the well-being of many.

Thank you for listening. I would greatly appreciate your vote in favor of Saving Pontiac prison. Thank you.

Sincerely,



Kathryn Lyons  
742 W. Moulton St.  
Pontiac, IL 61764

cc: Senate President Emil Jones  
cc: Senate Minority Leader Frank Watson  
cc: Speaker of the House Michael Madigan  
cc: Minority Leader Tom Cross  
cc: Senator Dan Rutherford  
cc: Senator Bill Brady  
cc: Senator Gary Dahl  
cc: Representative Shane Coultra  
cc: Representative Keith Summer  
cc: Representative Dan Brady  
cc: Representative Careen Gordon

June 16, 2008

Senator Dan Rutherford  
320 North Plum Street  
Pontiac, IL 61764

JUN 17 2008

Re: Closing Pontiac Prison  
Dear Senator Rutherford

Enclosed is a copy of the letter I sent to Governor Blagojevich asking him not to close Pontiac Prison. Please continue your efforts to keep it open. Those men who are inmates at Pontiac are people, too. There, but for the grace of God could be your friends, family members. They are not garbage. They are husbands, fathers, sons, nephews, brothers, friends, members of churches and so on.

Please help us keep them close so we may continue to be part of rehabilitation and stability for our family member. Thank You!

Sincerely,  
Carol J. Taylor  
4404 Cleveland Street  
Streator, IL 61364

June 16, 2008

Governor Rod Blagojevich  
Office of the Governor  
207 State House  
Springfield, IL 62706

Re: Closing Pontiac Prison

Dear Governor Blagojevich

This is the first time I have ever written to a governor, but, Sir, this issue is very important to me and my family.

Please do not close Pontiac Prison.

As you will note I am from Streator and have a close relative at Pontiac. Please do not move him several hours away from his family (from Streator, Bloomington, El Paso, Decatur). We want to continue being an active part of his life and moving him to Thompson would be a great financial hardship for us.

Speaking of finances, closing Stateville would have saved the State 40 million dollars, closing Pontiac only 5 million. Why close Pontiac and harm local economies of many small communities and disrupt lives of hundreds of families who work at the prison. Consider placing new inmates to corrections at Thompson. Thank you for your consideration I voted for you twice

Sincerely,  
Carol (Lyle) Street  
4404 Cleveland Street  
Streator, IL 61364

E A R L A N D A R L E N E S M I T H  
7 6 1 W B A U E R R D  
N A P E R V I L L E I L 6 0 5 6 3

June 19, 2008

Honorable Rod R. Blagojevich  
207 State House  
Springfield, Il 62706

Dear Governor Blagojevich:

We are writing this letter as concerned Il taxpayers about the possible closing of the Pontiac Correctional Center in Pontiac Il. .

It is important for the inmates, their families, the employees of the correctional center and the community of Pontiac that the facility be kept open. The impact on the economic and well being of thousands of people is at stake. It is a ripple effect that reaches out beyond just the facility, but the whole State of Ill. as well. The US economy is at a slowdown and the job market is in a downtrend. The Ill. Government should be creating jobs and helping the economy, not hindering it. The closing of a correctional center should be taken very seriously and studied very carefully before such an action is taken.

A moratorium on all correctional facility closures should be established until a comprehensive analysis on correctional facility closures is made. There should be long range plans that would insure well being and safety of inmates, lessen overcrowding , and that would make good economic sense.

We are family members of an inmate at the Pontiac Correctional Center who is being held in Protective Custody. We are concerned where he would be placed if the Center were closed and about his well being in another facility. We are also concerned that he would be moved to Thomson which is in the northwest portion of the state that would be a great hardship for us, his parents and other members of his family to travel far and visit . The cost of gas for such an extensive trip, plus lodging and meals would make the trip very costly. We are seniors and just traveling a long distant is a physical hardship let alone the cost.

We urge you to uphold the full funding for Pontiac Correction Center that the General Assembly recently passed in the Ill. Budget, to place a moratorium on all correctional facility closures and establish a comprehensive plan that would ensure the public safety, support the local economies, promote the well being and rehabilitation of the inmates and assist the correctional staff.

Sincerely,

Earl and Arlene Smith

JUN 23 2008

Governor Blagojevich Sir,

My name is David Miller; I have been employed at the Pontiac Correctional Center for fourteen and a half years. I am fifty years old, and have been a life-long resident of Illinois. The only exception being about three and a half years in the mid-eighties when I was forced to look for better employment opportunities paying more than minimum wage.

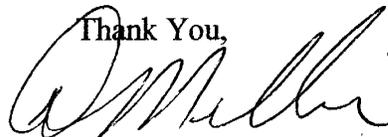
In the late seventies and early eighties, as you well know, Illinois was going through a rather difficult economic struggle. At that time I had recently graduated Caterpillar's mechanist apprenticeship only to find that I would be laid off that very same day. After seventeen years of unreliable intermittent employment at Caterpillar, I was fortunately offered a position with your agency, the I.D.O.C. in January of 1994. While working at the Pontiac Correctional Center, I was recalled to Caterpillar for another offer of employment. At that time, a decision had to be made. I decided to stay in the employ of the I.D.O.C..

I only mention the above history to show that I have been through the turmoil of being laid off. I have seen the impact and devastation that facility closures have on communities first hand. Property values plummet, businesses close, bankruptcy filings soar, and some must even leave the state to seek employment. Most important, is the impact it has on the families of the displaced workers. Children will be uprooted from their schools and friends and spouses will be separated while looking for suitable employment. These same people may also be forced to move out of state as I was in 1984.

I am a Writ Officer at the Pontiac Correctional Center. I have visited many of the states prisons, courts, and hospitals over the years. I can assure you that Pontiac is an efficiently run facility with high quality staff, based on my travels to other state operated facilities. Also I would like to provide insight into the prisoners at Pontiac. In my daily duties I have been told by prisoners and by staff from other facilities, prisoners do not want to be housed at Pontiac. Strictly because of the way the facility is run, it is not a pleasant place to "do time". It has been designed as a deterrent and it's working! Since Pontiac was converted to a segregation facility, previous issues that were becoming a concern at other prisons have decreased, because of the deterrent factor of Pontiac Correctional Center.

I urge you to please reconsider your decision to close Pontiac Correctional Center. If you must open Thompson, maybe you could fill it with the I.D.O.C.'s surplus of inmates that we are currently paying the Cook County Jail system to hold for us. Thank you very much for your time, and I hope that you will consider me in your decision, and keep Pontiac Correctional Center open.

Thank You,



David Miller



210 E. Torraine Ave. • Pontiac, IL 61764

Brian Blossom, *Executive Director*

(815) 842-1122 • Fax (815) 842-2728 • TTD (815) 844-6599  
E-Mail [future@futuresunlimited.org](mailto:future@futuresunlimited.org)

August 5, 2008

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



RE: Potential Closure of Pontiac Correctional Center (PCC)

Dear Senator Schoenberg and Representative Rich Myers:

Futures Unlimited, Inc. is a comprehensive social service agency serving about 400 adults and children with disabilities per year. We offer a variety of programs that meet the residential, vocational, and community support needs of the people we serve. As PCC is the largest employer in our county, many of our services are provided to family members of PCC employees. In addition, several of my employees have a spouse that is employed by PCC.

If PCC were to close everyone loses, including those people served by our agency. Futures is paid by the state on a fee for service basis. If we were to lose families that we serve because of the closure of PCC, this would reduce our revenue base. We are already trying to contend with an overall 2% reduction in funding implemented by the Governor. Losing additional revenue could force us to layoff employees and scale back programs that many families depend upon.

The economic impact of this proposed closure would hurt our agency for years to come. Many of our services are supplemented by county tax dollars through the 377 Community Mental Health and 377 Developmental Disabilities state statutes. The closing of PCC would greatly reduce our local tax base, thus reducing another source of revenue to our agency. In addition, we depend on donor dollars as another source of revenue. The PCC employees and their families have always generously supported Futures and its' mission.

As Illinois already ranks 51<sup>st</sup> in the nation in funding community supports for persons with disabilities, we have to depend upon many additional sources of revenue. Closing PCC would severely limit services to some of our most vulnerable citizens. On behalf of the people we serve and their families, we ask you to please recommend that Pontiac Correctional Center remain open.

Respectfully,

Brian L. Blossom, Executive Director



Futures Unlimited is a public benefit organization established under Section 501 (c)(3) regulations.

*"Building new partnerships for new opportunities"*



800 S. Lawrence Way  
Pontiac, IL 61764

8/5/08

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



Honorable Committee Chairmen:

Recently, there has been tremendous worry in the community of Pontiac about the proposed closure of Pontiac Correctional Center. While I have no direct ties to the prison, I am deeply disturbed by this proposal and the manner in which it is being carried out for a variety of reasons.

First, economic development is a significant problem in Livingston County. The prison has been a stable source of employment for hundreds of Livingston County residents, and it benefits local businesses in terms of the dollars spent by prison workers and families visiting inmates. The Governor's office has created the appearance that this proposal was hastily made, and the proposed timeline for closure is incredibly fast. While our county had previously been working on bringing more economic development to our community, this has been a slow and difficult process. Trying to develop a plan to soften the blow of the prison's closure in such a short time frame is next to impossible. The prison's closure will impact every aspect of the community, particularly the housing market. My wife and I are expecting our first child, and we are in need of finding a new home. However, selling our current home without taking a huge financial loss may prove extremely difficult if the prison closes. During such a tough economic time, a fast prison closure could severely depress our economy and cause an economic crisis. While some of the economic benefits we lose in Livingston County may be gained by Carroll County, those communities will not miss what they do not yet have. Additionally, I would encourage you to look at the proximity of Thomson to Iowa. While many prison workers may relocate to the Thomson area to stay employed, I seriously wonder how many of those workers will move to Iowa (just across the river from Thomson) and commute to keep their incomes from being spent in Illinois.

My second concern lies in the manner in which this proposal has been generated. As a citizen of Illinois, I understand that we should maximize the use of our tax dollars. However, it appears that only two prisons have been studied in this decision. I would feel much more comfortable if the State were to slow down and evaluate every facility within the Department of Corrections to determine how best to proceed. If the process were well-thought out and slowed down, it would afford communities the time necessary to develop new sources of revenue. This is especially true at a time when our State's economy is incredibly fragile. Hastily closing facilities could be the tipping point which sends our communities into an economic tailspin. The families of Livingston County cannot afford this prison to close, especially not in the incredibly fast timeline outlined in the proposal.

I understand your difficult position in this process. I would strongly urge you to oppose the closing of Pontiac Correctional Center at this time and would also urge the comprehensive study of all correctional facilities in the State of Illinois.

Sincerely,

Parker Bane

# FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH

*American Baptist Churches/USA*

515 N. Ladd St. • Pontiac, IL 61764

James O. Wolfe III  
*Pastor*

www.fbepontiac.org  
815-842-4321

Karen M. Boucher  
*Associate Pastor*

**5 August 2008**

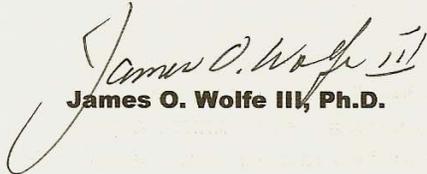
**Senator Jeff Schoenberg  
Commission on Government  
Forecasting and Accountability  
703 Stratton Office Building  
Springfield, IL 62706**

**Dear Senator Schoenberg:**

**I want to encourage you in the strongest possible terms to support the continued operation of the Pontiac Correctional Center. The proposed closure of the Pontiac Correctional Center will be a devastating economic blow to the community. Businesses, churches and personal lives will be profoundly impacted by this closure. The closure of the correctional facility will result in the loss of hundreds of jobs; forcing relocation and extreme economic hardship to this community. I can conceive of no positive benefit to the closing of the correctional facility; it is a harmful decision for the people of Pontiac and the surrounding community.**

**Please make every effort to support the continued operation of the Pontiac Correctional Facility.**

**Sincerely yours,**

  
**James O. Wolfe III, Ph.D.**



*"Growing the family of God"*

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*  
Joe Mayback