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**State of Illinois**  
**COMMISSION ON GOVERNMENT**  
**FORECASTING AND ACCOUNTABILITY**  
703 Stratton Ofc. Bldg., Springfield, IL 62706  
217/782-5320 Fax: 217/782-3513  
<http://cgfa.ilga.gov/>

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August 6, 2015

**MEMORANDUM**

**TO:** The Honorable Bruce Rauner, Governor, State of Illinois  
The Honorable John Cullerton, President of the Senate  
The Honorable Michael Madigan, Speaker of the House of Representatives  
The Honorable Christine Radogno, Minority Leader of the Senate  
The Honorable Jim Durkin, Minority Leader of the House of Representatives  
The Honorable Jesse White, Secretary of State  
Gladys C. Taylor, Acting Director, Illinois Department of Corrections

**RE:** Advisory Opinion of the Commission on Government Forecasting and Accountability Regarding the Closure of the Hardin County Work Camp

The Commission met on Wednesday, August 5, 2015 at 9:00 am to take final action on the proposed closure of the Hardin County Work Camp and to accept or reject the recommendation for closure submitted by the Department of Corrections (the Department) for that facility. A quorum was present and a **motion to accept the recommendation** for closure by the Department of Corrections for the Hardin County Work Camp in Cave-In-Rock, Illinois **failed on a vote of 2 yes and 7 no**. A copy of the motion to accept the recommendation for closure and the vote tally is attached.

**Background**

The Department of Corrections officially notified the Commission on Government Forecasting and Accountability (the Commission) of the intent to close the Hardin County Work Camp on June 3, 2015. According to the State Facilities Closure Act (30 ILCS 608/5-10): "In the case of a proposed closure of: (i) a prison, youth center, work camp or work release center operated by the Department of Corrections; (ii) a school, mental health center, or center for the developmentally disabled operated by the

Department of Human Services; or (iii) a residential facility operated by the Department of Veterans' Affairs, the Commission must require the executive branch officers to file a recommendation for closure. The recommendation must be filed within 30 days after the Commission delivers the request for recommendation to the State executive branch officer."

The Commission requested the required recommendation on June 8, 2015. The Department submitted the recommendation for closure to the Commission on July 8, 2015. Following the State Facility Closure Act requirements for conducting a public hearing within 35 days after the filing of the recommendation and no more than 25 miles from the facility, the Commission conducted a public hearing regarding the closure of the Hardin County Work Camp on July 20, 2015 at 2:00 p.m. at Hardin County High School in Elizabethtown, IL.

The Department indicated that financial concerns were the main reason for proposing the closure of the work camp. In its recommendation, the Department indicated that the work camp was in need of significant capital upgrades. A 2007 Capitol Development Board study indicated that up to \$9.8 million in upgrades and improvements were needed. Improvements listed included electrical upgrades, a back-up generator, water treatment upgrades, and telephone system upgrades. One especially significant issue was the destruction of the kitchen area associated with a fire and an annual outlay of approximately \$145,000 per year for a kitchen rental. The Commission members questioned the amount of work needed to make the kitchen functional and how much of the needed work could be done with skilled labor on staff at the Vienna Correctional Center.

As of June 2015, 61 employees were located at the Hardin County Work Camp, according to the Department. The Department has stated that they believe that most of the employees would be able to find similar positions within the Department in the Southern Illinois region. Some Commission members showed concern related to how far the transferred employees would have to commute in their new positions. The Department indicated that there were 25 vacancies at the Shawnee Correctional Center and 42 positions at the Vienna Correctional Center which are both approximately 45 minutes from the Hardin County Work Camp.

One item that troubled the Commission was the lack of analysis related to the economic impact on the local community. The Department presented a one-page report from Dr. Geoffrey J.D. Hewings from the Regional Economic Applications Laboratory at the University of Illinois. In the report, Dr. Hewings stated that due to the assumption that all employees would be able to transfer within the Southern Illinois area, "it would be difficult to conduct a meaningful economic impact on Southern Illinois since most of the direct effects involve relocation." He concludes his report by stating that "the impact [of the closure] would have small net impacts, too small to show up in an economic model."

During the public hearing, it was often mentioned how much community service the camp provides to the surrounding communities especially during times of natural disaster. In 2014, the camp provided almost 16,000 man hours of community service. Almost 12,000 of these hours were spent helping with local and state parks. In just the first six months of 2015, the camp has provided 33,742 hours of community service. This large increase was due to over 25,000 hours spent on a special project.

### **Vote**

After touring the facility, hearing testimony from the Department of Corrections and numerous other individuals and organizations, and reviewing written testimony, a **motion to accept** the Department of Corrections recommendation to close the Hardin County Work Camp in Cave-In-Rock, Illinois **failed on a vote of 2 yes and 7 no.**



Senator Donne Trotter



Representative Donald Moffitt

DT/DM:dkb  
S466

**MOTION: TO ACCEPT THE RECOMMENDATION FOR THE CLOSURE OF THE HARDIN COUNTY  
WORK CAMP**

Pursuant to the State Facility Closure Act (30 ILCS 608), after hearing testimony regarding the proposed closure of the Hardin County Work Camp in Cave-In-Rock, IL, I move that the Commission on Government Forecasting and Accountability accept the recommendation for closure submitted by the Illinois Department of Corrections regarding the Hardin County Work Camp.

# MOTION / VOTE

## *Hardin County Work Camp*

### *FACILITY CLOSURE HEARING – VOTE*

*August 5, 2015 – 9:00 a.m. – Room A-1, Stratton Ofc. Bldg.*

	V O T E		
	YES	NO	Present
Representative Kelly Burke (D)			
Senator David Koehler (D)		✓	
Representative Donald Moffitt (R) <b>CO-CHAIR</b>		✓	
Senator Matt Murphy (R)	✓		
Representative Elaine Nekritz (D)		✓	
Representative Raymond Poe (R)		✓	
Representative Al Riley (D)			
Senator Chapin Rose (R)			
Senator Heather Steans (D)		✓	
Senator Dave Syverson (R)	✓		
Senator Donne Trotter <b>CO-CHAIR</b>		✓	
Representative Michael Unes (R)		✓	
<b>VOTE</b>	2	7	0

MOTION TO CLOSE: TROTTER 2<sup>nd</sup> MOTION: MURPHY

Attending: Senator Forby / Representative(s) Butler, Scherer, Bradley, Phelps, Cavaletto