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MICHIGAN SENATE
WAYNE KUIPERS
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COMMITTEES:
EDUCATION, CHAIR
JUDICIARY, CHAIR
ADMINISTRATIVE RULES
ENERGY POLICY
GOVERNMENT OPERATIONS

October 1, 2009

The Honorable Jennifer M. Granholm, Governor
State of Michigan
111 S. Capitol Avenue
Lansing, MI 48933

Dear Governor Granholm:

In August, I introduced two resolutions (SR 73 and SCR 17) that urged the President and Congress to declassify intelligence information on the Guantanamo Bay detainees and provide it to, both, you and the Legislature. It is imperative that we have access to any and all declassified information, as specified in my resolutions, in order to ensure that we do our due diligence and make a fully informed decision on whether or not to house terrorist detainees on our state soil, as well as provide transparency to this decision-making process.

The Senate Judiciary committee held a hearing to discuss the transfer of terrorists held at Guantanamo Bay to the maximum correctional facility in Standish, Michigan on Tuesday, August 18. Congressman Pete Hoekstra, the ranking member on the House Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence, is privy to classified information which only three other members of Congress have access to, regarding the history and background of each Guantanamo detainee. As a ranking member of the Intelligence committee, with his vast knowledge of each detainees' heinous background, Congressman Hoekstra cautioned the committee on the threats that would be posed to Michigan's citizens should the detainees be moved here.

President Obama requested \$80 million to be appropriated, in a war-spending bill, to be used to facilitate the closure of the Guantanamo Bay detention facility. Congress stripped out the requested money because the President has – yet – to present a detailed plan regarding the facility's closure. There are a multitude of questions that our country, and we as a state, must demand answers to. What liberties and rights will these terrorists be afforded? To what extent will the safety of our country and state be compromised? What security measures would be implemented at an in-land facility to prevent, both, outside sieges and escape? How would the identity of military personnel be protected?

There have been recent reports that indicate that you and your staff have been in constant communication with the White House regarding utilizing the Standish Maximum Correctional Facility as a permanent placement for these terrorists. Specifically, I would like to know who in the President's administration you have been in contact with, what the nature of your conversations have been, whether any offers have been discussed or made, the nature of the ownership of the facility, and any and all other pertinent information regarding this very serious matter.

I implore you to include members of the Legislature in the ongoing dialog that you continue to have with the White House on this issue before a final decision is made. Moving these detainees to Michigan would breach the most fundamental promise we make to the citizens of our state – providing them with a safe, secure, and healthy place to call home. There *is* a reason that these detainees are located on a 45-square mile naval base and not a 118-acre correctional facility.

Although Michigan is in dire economic straits, we cannot trade our state's safety and security for money. Should Michigan remain a possible contender as a location for these terrorists, the Senate Republicans pledge to do whatever it takes to stop this ill-advised possibility from becoming a reality for our citizens.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Wayne Kuipers', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Wayne Kuipers
State Senator
30th District



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MEMORANDUM

TO: Senate Judiciary Committee Members

FROM: Senator Wayne Kuipers

RE: Guantanamo Bay Detainees Potential Relocation to Michigan

DATE: October 27, 2007

I invited Governor Granholm and her staff to attend today's committee meeting to engage in an open discussion regarding the relocation of Guantanamo Bay detainees to the Standish Maximum Correction Facility. Unfortunately, neither the Governor nor her staff was able to attend. The following is a list in which I would like to receive detailed information on.

- The individual(s) of President Obama's administration that Governor Granholm, or individuals at her direction, has been in "continuous" contact with regarding the transfer of Guantanamo Bay detainees to Michigan
- The nature of the conversations that have occurred between President Obama, his administration, Governor Granholm, her administration, and Standish's elected officials regarding the transfer of Guantanamo Bay detainees to Michigan
- Whether the nature of ownership of Standish Maximum Correctional Facility has ever been discussed in relation to the transfer of Guantanamo Bay detainees to Michigan
- Whether any offers have ever been made or discussed in exchange for Michigan housing Guantanamo Bay detainees
- If offers have been made or discussed, the detailed facts and figures that were proposed
- Whether there has been discussion on, either, the number or type of jobs that would be retained or created by the transfer of Guantanamo Bay detainees to Michigan
- Any and all other pertinent information regarding the transfer of Guantanamo Bay detainees to Michigan

In addition, I intend to submit Freedom of Information Act requests with the Departments of Defense and Homeland Security to garner information on the above bullet points.



STATE OF MICHIGAN
OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR
LANSING

JENNIFER M. GRANHOLM
GOVERNOR

JOHN D. CHERRY, JR.
LT. GOVERNOR

October 22, 2009

The Honorable Wayne Kuipers
P.O. Box 30036
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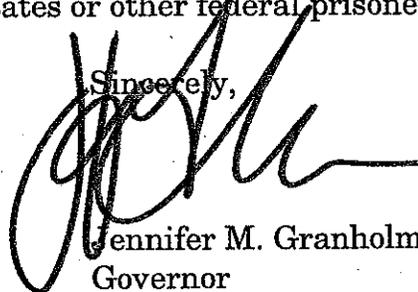
Dear Senator Kuipers:

Thank you for your recent letter expressing your concerns on the possible transfer of Guantanamo Bay detainees to the Standish Maximum Correctional Facility.

The White House has been in regular contact with us as they move through their deliberative process to implement President Obama's executive order. From the beginning, we have made clear that – in the event the federal government chooses to advance a site selection proposal that includes Michigan – we have very serious concerns about safety and security in Michigan and until those concerns are addressed I am not in favor of relocating the detainees to Michigan. We will, of course, include the legislature as well as other stakeholders in a dialogue on this issue should any proposal be made.

Again, thank you for sharing your thoughts with me on this issue. At this time, we are focused on other potential uses for the Standish facility, including prisoners from other states or other federal prisoners.

Sincerely,



Jennifer M. Granholm
Governor