

WISCONSIN LEGISLATURE

P.O. Box 7882 • Madison, WI 53707-7882

April 15, 2019

Senator Alberta Darling
Joint Committee on Finance Co-Chair
Room 317 East, State Capitol
Madison, WI 53707

Representative John Nygren
Joint Committee on Finance Co-Chair
Room 309 East, State Capitol
Madison, WI 53707

Dear Senator Darling and Representative Nygren,

2017 Act 185 rightly took a critical look at Wisconsin's juvenile correctional system and restructured the broader youth justice system to address concerns that arose. Among other provisions, the Act established the creation of one or more new Department of Corrections-operated Type 1 facilities for youth adjudicated under the Serious Juvenile Offender program. On March 12, 2019, Governor Tony Evers announced the two intended locations for Type 1 facilities with one in Milwaukee County and the other in the Town of Hortonia in Outagamie County. Under this law, these facilities require approval by the Joint Committee on Finance.

We request that statutorily required approval of this facility by the Joint Committee on Finance be delayed until the Department of Corrections, including the Secretary, hold an informational session or multiple sessions in the Town of Hortonia and the Department gains support for the placement of the facility from governing bodies of the Town and County. Finally, we would advocate that the Administration justify their determination of the location of this facility and the long-term foresight that would make this location ideal in their viewpoint.

While the need to find adequate locations and the difficulty in predicting the long-term needs for Serious Juvenile Offender program is well understood, the announcement of the facility caught many in the area by surprise with very little to no prior knowledge it would be chosen. Additionally, concerns regarding the location of the site, zoning requirements, ordinance compliance, its adjacency to the Wolf River, wetlands, wildlife displacement, and being inside of a FEMA Special Flood Hazard Area would need to be addressed directly. Community support for a facility such as this is paramount to ensuring it be accepted into the community and result in successful outcomes for the youth and surrounding area.

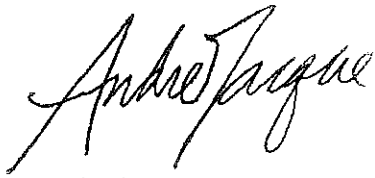
Sincerely,

Senator Robert Cowles
2nd Senate District

Representative Gary Tauchen
6th Assembly District

Senator Roger Roth, Senate President
19th Senate District

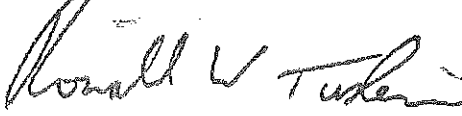
Representative Jim Stieneke, Majority Leader
5th Assembly District



Senator Andre Jacque
1st Senate District



Representative Dave Murphy
56th Assembly District



Ron Tusler
3rd Assembly District

cc: Members of the Joint Committee on Finance

Kevin Carr, Wisconsin Department of Corrections Secretary

John Paquin, Division of Juvenile Corrections, Wisconsin Department of Corrections

Bob Luedtke, Town of Hortonia Chairman

Town of Hortonia Board of Supervisors

Jeff Nooyen, Outagamie County Board, Chair

Outagamie County Board of Supervisors

Thomas Nelson, Outagamie County, County Executive