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Rep. Steffen Outlines Long-Term Plans for Green Bay Correctional Institution *Proposal requests a thorough review of future options for GBCI*

Madison- State Representative David Steffen (R-Howard) announced during a press conference today that he has formally requested a comprehensive feasibility study of GBCI to determine future plans for the aging facility.

In a letter addressed to Governor Walker and Department of Corrections Secretary, Jon Litscher, Rep. Steffen requested that a cost-analysis and feasibility study be conducted of GBCI, comparing costs of continuing to maintain the outdated facility versus constructing a modernized, multi-functional facility. The study would explore the economic benefits of relocating a new facility elsewhere within the Brown County area, allowing the valuable real estate upon which GBCI is currently located to be repurposed.

“Over the past several months I have met and spoken with a number of community leaders, GBCI staff and officers, and the Department of Corrections. These discussions have brought to light a number of issues currently impacting GBCI. This prompted me to make the request to Governor Walker and DOC to fund a cost-analysis study of GBCI to determine the benefits of a modernized facility,” said Rep. Steffen.

The letter cites the costs of maintaining this aging, inefficient facility along with the value of its property as two significant costs to keeping GBCI in its current form. New assessed property value of the redeveloped land could range anywhere from \$35-80 million, resulting in up to \$1.67 million in total annual tax revenue. Additionally, the letter notes the current facility does not meet capacity needs, creating additional costs and security concerns. The outdated layout of the facility creates further barriers to organizational efficiency between staff and inmates.

“Taken together, these costs and concerns show that this is an appropriate time to conduct a study and begin seriously developing a long-term, sustainable plan for GBCI. Not only are there financial benefits to be gained through an updated facility, but security and capacity gains as well. The goal of this study is to determine if these benefits outweigh the costs of continuing to maintain GBCI as is,” said Rep. Steffen.

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