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House of Representatives
State of Idaho
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Chairman and Board
Idaho State Board of Corrections
1299 N Orchard Street
Boise, Idaho 83720

Dear Chairman Field and Board:

Thank you for your willingness to act as board members and for your public service. The Board and Department have done an excellent job in transitioning the privately managed prison to public management, and your efforts to increase funding in order to keep the excellent staff that we have are commendable.

However, in view of revelations from the United States Attorney investigation and the entire history of the relationship, we believe the Department needs to develop and implement a plan to completely get out of the private prison business.

In fiscal 2015 our State will pay about \$4.49 million for housing an average of 226 inmates in the CCA Colorado facility. The legislature has appropriated about the same amount for FY16. This should end.

We note an Idaho Attorney General Opinion dated November 20, 2013, indicates that:

“....the Board is required, prior to contracting with agreements from other states, or private prison contractors, to ‘determine the availability of state facilities suitable for the detention and confinement of prisoners held under the authority of state law.’ Idaho Code Section 20-241A (1). ‘Suitable’is likely construed broadly, to include consideration of factors other than simply whether there is an available physical location. Determination of whether there is a suitable facility might well entail consideration of such factors as appropriate staffing, concerns about location, the existence of a building fit for the purpose for which it is to be used, as well as social and

economic implications.”

Clearly the private prison experiment has failed in Idaho and because of that failure there appear to be impediments to continuing that policy.


We have had a concurrent resolution drafted for some time, and unfortunately, we will have no choice but to vigorously pursue it in the next legislative session. Again, the Department under past and present leadership has made very positive strides toward professionalism and we are very proud of this work.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely



Representative Mat Erpelding



Representative John Gannon