## STATE SENATOR LISA BAKER 20TH SENATORIAL DISTRICT

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## Senate of Pennsylvania

March 22, 2010

VETERANS AFFAIRS & EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS, CHAIR COMMUNICATIONS & TECHNOLOGY, VICE CHAIR AGING & YOUTH APPROPRIATIONS ENVIRONMENTAL RESOURCES & ENERGY PUBLIC HEALTH & WELFARE

Jeffrey A. Beard, Ph.D., Secretary Pennsylvania Department of Corrections 2520 Lisburn Road PO Box 598 Camp Hill, PA 17001-0598

Dear Secretary Beard:

As a follow up to our telephone conversation this morning, I am requesting a community meeting to discuss the department's plan to reduce tower staffing at SCI-Dallas. Your willingness to respond to widespread public concern and opposition is appreciated.

Residents are understandably troubled. The last time the towers were demanned, two inmates escaped from the facility, despite assurances from the department that a video surveillance and perimeter intrusion detection system would provide the necessary protections. My position is clear – cost cutting cannot compromise public safety.

Thank you for your cooperation in this matter. I will contact your office this week to make the necessary arrangements.

Sincerely,

Lisa Baker

Senator

pc:

The Honorable Karen Boback The Honorable Phyllis Mundy

The Honorable John Yudichak

Dallas Borough Officials

Dallas Township Officials Jackson Township Officials Kingston Township Officials

Lehman Township Officials