

**STATE SENATOR  
JOHN YUDICHAK**  
14TH DISTRICT

**STATE SENATOR  
LISA BAKER**  
20TH DISTRICT

**STATE SENATOR  
JOHN BLAKE**  
22ND DISTRICT

**STATE SENATOR  
JOHN GORDNER**  
27TH DISTRICT

**STATE SENATOR  
DAVID ARGALL**  
29TH DISTRICT



## Commonwealth of Pennsylvania

**STATE REPRESENTATIVE  
JONATHAN FRITZ**  
111TH DISTRICT

**STATE REPRESENTATIVE  
TARAH TOOHL**  
118TH DISTRICT

**STATE REPRESENTATIVE  
KAREN BOBACK**  
117TH DISTRICT

**STATE REPRESENTATIVE  
MIKE CARROLL**  
118TH DISTRICT

**STATE REPRESENTATIVE  
GERALD MULLERY**  
119TH DISTRICT

**STATE REPRESENTATIVE  
AARON KAUFER**  
120TH DISTRICT

**STATE REPRESENTATIVE  
EDDIE DAY PASHINSKI**  
121ST DISTRICT

**STATE REPRESENTATIVE  
NEAL GOODMAN**  
123RD DISTRICT

**STATE REPRESENTATIVE  
JERRY KNOWLES**  
124TH DISTRICT

**STATE REPRESENTATIVE  
MIKE TOBASH**  
125TH DISTRICT

**STATE REPRESENTATIVE  
MICHAEL PEIFER**  
139TH DISTRICT

January 17, 2017

The Honorable Tom Wolf  
Governor  
225 Main Capitol  
Harrisburg, PA 17120

Dear Governor Wolf,

The members of Pennsylvania's northeastern legislative delegation were dismayed to learn of your administration's decision to close two state correctional facilities (SCIs), out of five under consideration. Further, we were shocked to learn that three of those facilities are located in northeastern Pennsylvania. We are also extremely disappointed that a decision of this magnitude was made without any public input or consultation with local officials of the SCIs home communities. We urge you to delay the decision to close two of these five facilities until the public has had a chance to offer comment. Local communities have a chance to adjust their budgets and plans, and the decision to take such action has been sufficiently vetted.


This monumental decision will greatly affect the operations and budgets of the host communities, the lives of those working in the facilities to be closed, and will have a devastating economic impact to the surrounding regions, and potentially put the safety of all Pennsylvanians at risk.

We understand Pennsylvania's looming budget constraints are daunting and are willing to work with you to achieve the necessary cost savings to reach a balanced budget. However, we do not believe such decisions should be done in a vacuum not at the risk to public safety. Our current state inmate population is overcapacity and we are paying counties to house state inmates in their facilities. To close two SCIs will exacerbate this situation and lead to dangerous overcrowding which puts the public and Department of Corrections (DOC) employees at great risk.

The three facilities in northeastern Pennsylvania are located in rural economically depressed regions and are the major employers for their areas. Closing these facilities within six months will cause a harmful economic impact through the region that will negatively affect everything from small businesses to power generating stations. Families may be forced to move from these areas as they seek employment at other SCIs and property values will fall.

In short, we believe that 2017-18 cost savings derived from the DOC budget should come from a comprehensive look at the entire SCI system and not be focused on these selected facilities. Such far ranging actions must be made with complete transparency and input from the public. Therefore, we ask you again to delay the closing of any SCIs until a full review can be done with public input.

Sincerely,

  
John T. Yudichak  
14<sup>th</sup> Senatorial District

  
Lisa Baker  
20<sup>th</sup> Senatorial District


  
John Blake  
22<sup>nd</sup> Senatorial District

  
John Gordner  
27<sup>th</sup> Senatorial District

  
David Argall  
29<sup>th</sup> Senatorial District

  
Jonathan Fritz  
111<sup>th</sup> House District


  
Tarah Toohil  
116<sup>th</sup> House District

  
Karen Boback  
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Mike Carroll  
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Gerald Mullery  
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Aaron Kaufer  
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Eddie Day Pashinski  
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Neal Goodman  
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Jerry Knowles  
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Mike Tobash  
125<sup>th</sup> House District

  
Michael Peifer  
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