



State of Connecticut

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April 8, 2008

Commissioner Theresa Lantz
Department of Corrections
24 Wolcott Hill Road
Wethersfield, CT 06109

Dear Commissioner Lantz,

This past Tuesday, April 1st, I attended a tour of the Northern Correctional Institute in Somers. We toured the facility and met with the Warden as well as several Correctional Officers, which I found to be an informative and very productive part of our trip. During this meeting, it was expressed to me by a number of Correctional Officers that they would like to go back to a policy of more canines for inmate extractions and other events to minimize risks to the officers themselves. The prison employees feel that increasing the number of canines on duty will enhance their safety as well as the safety of the inmates.

I am writing at this time to request that you take their idea into serious consideration. No one knows better than the Correctional Officers that are on the ground how to best support their efforts at keeping the prison environment secured. I am also hopeful that you will be able to provide me with information regarding the initial policy decision to reduce the number of canines.

Thank you for your attention to this matter and if you have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,

John A. Kissel
State Senator- 7th District

cc: John Pepe, President, Local 391
Todd Sokolowski, Treasurer, Local 391
Representative Penny Bacchiochi