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April 4, 2011

Re: House Bill 6632
An Act Concerning the Siting of Residential Sexual Offender Treatment Facilities

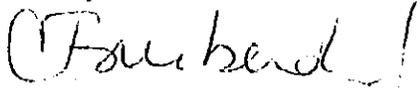
To the Members of the Judiciary Committee:

Last year the Town of Montville learned that a residential sex offender facility was to be built on the grounds of the state prison located within our town. After the decision was made, we learned that the process for determining the location of this facility seemed to be applied inconsistently, especially when considering the proximity of local businesses and institutions such as child care facilities and schools. It is still unclear whether the State of Connecticut gave serious consideration to more than two locations, one being Montville.

The state's decision is disappointing for several reasons. The most obvious is that it is frightening for Montville residents to know that sex offenders will be sent from prisons throughout the state to Montville. On a less emotional level, however, there exists a **tremendous sense of injustice** among Montville residents given the inconsistent application of criteria in identifying the most appropriate location for a facility of this kind. The provisions of this bill address that injustice: they require the establishment of standardized criteria to be applied consistently to a minimum of five potential sites for a residential sex offender facility, and they also require consideration of existing local facilities and businesses that would be impacted by a new sex offender facility built nearby. These provisions at least offer any town in a similar circumstance the assurance that the State of Connecticut has acted thoughtfully and fairly.

I strongly support the passage of House Bill 6632.

Thank you,



Catherine Buebendorf