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March 2, 2011

To: Senator Steve Cassano, Co-chair Planning and Development  
Representative Linda Gentile, Co-Chair Planning and Development  
Members Planning and Development Committee

From: Donna B. Jacobson, Chairperson Montville Town Council

Re: Proposed Bill No. 5581  
AN ACT PROVIDING STATE AID TO A MUNICIPALITY IN WHICH A STATE-  
OPERATED SEXUAL OFFENDER TREATMENT FACILITY IS LOCATED.

I am writing today to ask you to reconsider the text contained in Proposed Bill 5581. At minimum, this bill provides enabling legislation that would give some financial compensation to any municipality hosting a residential sexual offender half-way house.

I would like to suggest several addendums be included in the bill's main text that would create a more comprehensive compensation package to a municipality forced to accept this type of facility. Please refer to "A Study of Incentives to Site Criminal Justice Facilities" compiled December 30, 2008. This specific study "examined the challenges and opposition to siting of community-based criminal justice facilities and identified incentives to help promote development of these facilities." Listed below are just a few of the recommendations within the study regarding compensation to host municipalities.

#### A Study of Incentives to Site Criminal Justice Facilities<sup>1</sup>

- Provide community leaders and local officials with information and research on the impact of facilities and potential to serve as a resource to the neighborhood in supporting re-vitalization as well as public education initiatives.
- Provide aid to compensate for increased usage of resident troopers, local police and fire departments.
- Provide funds to augment neighborhood safety projects and other revitalization projects.

The benefits of these addendums will greatly assist a host municipality in dealing with such a specialized facility. Unfortunately, many unknown scenarios may arise due to the facility's clients and experimental therapeutic model, thus any municipality burdened with such a treatment facility should receive the appropriate support services, assistance with educating the public, and financial assistance from the State of Connecticut.

Thank you for your consideration. Please do not hesitate to contact me if you need additional information.

Sincerely,  
Donna B. Jacobson

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<sup>1</sup> State of Connecticut Office of Policy and Management, A Study of Incentives to Site Criminal Justice Facilities, "A Report of the Siting Incentives Committee," (December 30, 2008), p. 10.