



— State of —
North Dakota
Office of the Governor
John Hoeven
Governor

April 28, 2003

The Honorable Janet Wentz
House Chambers
Speaker of the House
State Capitol
Bismarck, ND 58505

RE: HOUSE BILL 1016, Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation Funding Bill

Dear Speaker Wentz,

North Dakota has real challenges with crime, such as the growing methamphetamine scourge and other drug related crimes. We must have adequate resources to house and treat this growing inmate population.

The Legislature has chosen to place inmates at a converted school in New England, and at county jails throughout the state. While this plan may create some liability issues, we will try to make it work. The immediate problem is that it does not adequately fund the Corrections Department.

The funds allocated for contracting with the counties do not take into account our projected inmate population. Furthermore, \$3 million was taken out of the prison budget, which will result in unacceptable reduction in corrections officers and rehabilitation services. The result of reduced treatment will be a larger prison population and more repeat offenders.

This is a basic public safety and fiscal management issue. I therefore veto the bill.

Sincerely,

/S/

John Hoeven
Governor

cc: Senate Majority Leader Bob Stenehjem
House Majority Leader Rick Berg
Senate Minority Leader David P. O'Connell
House Minority Leader Merle Boucher