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August 13, 2009

The Honorable Eric Holder
Attorney General of the United States
U.S. Department of Justice
Washington, DC 20530

Dear General Holder:

On August 13, 2009, Administration officials from the Departments of Defense, Justice, and Homeland Security, and the Bureau of Prisons toured the Standish Maximum Correctional Facility in Michigan to assess it as a possible site for the relocation of the terrorist detainees being held at the Guantanamo Bay detention facility. If the Standish facility is under consideration for such a move, I believe it is reasonable and prudent to allow the people of Michigan to educate themselves on the detainees located at Guantanamo Bay.

I am writing to request the coordination of a one-day trip to the Guantanamo Bay detention facility where I will lead a delegation consisting of Michigan state and local officials and members of the Michigan press. I would prefer that the trip occur within the next three weeks. The purpose of the delegation is to tour the detention facility and receive briefings, at the unclassified level, on various topics related to the detainees, to include a review of the experience we have had in detaining them.

I also believe state and local officials should have similar access as federal officials to any threat information regarding the management of the detainees. Therefore, I am also requesting the release of existing classified information on the identification of those detainees who are under consideration for relocation to the United States, to include their known terrorist activities and any assessments on the potential threat their presence in the United States poses to prisons and the surrounding communities.

I would appreciate a response as soon as possible. I have sent an identical letter to Secretary of Defense Robert M. Gates.

Sincerely,

Peter Hoekstra
Ranking Republican Member