

October 9, 1996

Hon. John Engler, Governor  
State Capitol Building  
Lansing, Michigan

Attn : Jennifer Yarid  
Scheduling Secretary

Dear Governor :

Two weeks ago petitions were forwarded to you containing the names of nearly 600 residents and taxpayers, mainly from Webber Township, opposing the construction of a maximum security prison in Section 26. We do not know if these have come to your personal attention inasmuch as the only direct response we have received has come as a single copy of a form letter.

While we are bitterly opposed to the Section 26 site for many good and obvious reasons, we are **NOT ANTI-PRISON** and remain open-minded about other locations and the petition itself asks that alternative and suitable location be found. Several such locations exist, some not far from the site which has been selected, but for some unknown reason these have never been considered. These are also on State-owned land.

In fact, neither the Department of Corrections nor any other entity has held any public hearing for Webber residents prior to the decision to build in Section 26. Having not been afforded such an opportunity in the decision making process, and fearing that our earlier plea to you has been filtered out before gaining your personal attention, we respectfully request that you grant us an opportunity to discuss our concerns with you.

We realize that your schedule is a busy one, especially at the present time, but we also fear that any further delay in resolving this matter is rapidly leading us towards the precipice beyond which can only lie lengthy court action and civil suits. This is an unfortunate situation both for our local people and for the State. But it is a situation that can be readily defused and we hope that you will give us an opportunity to work together towards that end.

We would be happy to meet with you at such time and location as you may select and in such numbers as you may choose, from a car load to a bus load. Or, we would be pleased to meet with you at our regular weekly meeting place, which is the VFW hall on M-37,  $\frac{3}{2}$  miles north of Baldwin.

Very truly yours,

*Marie Lowing*  
Marie Lowing

Acting Chairperson  
Webber Better Neighborhood Committee  
P.O. Box 977  
Baldwin, Michigan 49304

Tel. (616)-745-4007

JOHN SELLECK  
SCHEDULING OFFICE  
373-3400  
10/22/96 IN PERSON

TX JAMIE 10/30/96  
SELLECK NOT THERE  
CALL BACK TOMORROW