



May 11, 2016

Dear President Obama and Members of Congress,

Our primary role as elected officials of Colorado is to ensure the health and safety of our citizens. To that end, before any decisions are made to transfer detainees from Guantanamo Bay to Colorado, we urge the appropriate office of the federal government to meet with Colorado Senator Kevin Grantham and Representative James Wilson, who represent Fremont County, where the United States Penitentiary, Administrative Maximum Facility is located; as well as Governor John Hickenlooper; and the leadership of the Colorado General Assembly.

The majority of detainees remaining at the Guantanamo facility — over 50 of the 91 individuals now in custody — are deemed to be so dangerous that they cannot be released to the custody of any other nation. The presence of dozens of these dangerous detainees imprisoned in facilities in Colorado may endanger the public safety of Colorado residents, public officials and corrections staff by exposing them to lethal retaliation by international terrorist groups or by persons already within the United States who are sympathetic to the goals of the detainees.

Our constituents are opposed to the transfer of detainees from Guantanamo Bay to any facility on U.S. soil out of justifiable concern for the safety of themselves and their loved ones. We are accountable to them and it is our duty to fully investigate the potential consequences of a transfer of detainees to our state.

If Congress acts to change current federal law and authorizes the transfer of detainees from the Guantanamo facility to one on United States soil, we are asking for a conversation to ensure the health and safety of our citizens, and to ensure that their voices are heard. We ask that the federal government leave no stone unturned and pursue every possibility before such a consequential decision is made.

Sincerely,

Rep. Jim Wilson  
State Representative

Sen. Kevin Grantham  
State Senator

Rep. Dickey Lee Hullinghorst  
Speaker of the House

Sen. Bill Cadman  
President of the Senate

Gov. John Hickenlooper  
Governor of Colorado