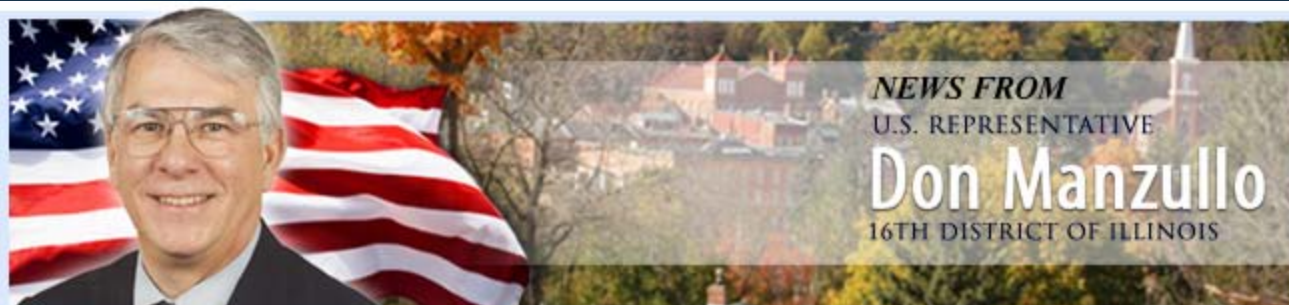


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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
June 30, 2010

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U.S. House Subcommittee Approves \$170 Million to Buy and Use Thomson as Stand Alone Federal Prison

Bill prohibits use of any federal funds to house GITMO terrorists at NW IL prison

WASHINGTON -- A U.S. House appropriations subcommittee voted late Tuesday to give the federal Bureau of Prisons \$170 million to purchase the Thomson Correctional Center in northwest Illinois and run it as a stand alone federal prison.

The bill, approved by the House Appropriations Subcommittee on Commerce, Justice and Science, specifically prohibits any federal funds from being used to move terrorists incarcerated at Guantanamo Bay, Cuba (GITMO) to Thomson. The funding must still be approved by the full Appropriations Committee and the full House and Senate before it is sent to the President for his signature.

“This is good news for those like me who would like to see Thomson open as a federal prison without the GITMO terrorists. This funding would allow the Bureau of Prisons to fully utilize Thomson as a federal prison housing up to 2,600 federal inmates, relieving the prison system’s massive overcrowding and providing much-needed jobs for the region,” Manzullo said. “We are at the beginning of the funding process and things can change, but we are in a good position now that the funding is in the bill at the beginning.”

For years, Manzullo has supported opening the now vacant Thomson Correctional Center as a stand alone state or federal prison. It has been heavily underutilized since it opened in 2001.

President Obama announced last November that he wanted to purchase Thomson and use it jointly as a federal prison and a new home for the al-Qaeda terrorists at GITMO. Manzullo was concerned the controversial GITMO

portion of the proposal would swamp efforts to open Thomson as a federal prison and create much needed jobs for the people of northwest Illinois. Manzullo asked the President in a November letter to separate the issues and was relieved when he received a letter back from the Administration in March stating they planned to purchase and open Thomson as a federal prison even if they could not get authorization from Congress to move the GITMO terrorists there.

Since then, Congress has recognized the mood of the American people and has taken several actions to prevent the move of the GITMO terrorists to Thomson. In late May, the House voted 282 to 131 (with 114 Democrats joining 168 Republicans) for an amendment to the FY 2010 Department of Defense Authorization bill (H.R. 5136) to prohibit the Administration from bringing any GITMO terrorists into the United States. Five Illinois Democrats joined all Illinois Republicans in supporting the amendment, which would keep the terrorists out of Illinois. And in the Senate, members of the Armed Services Committee voted to strip money from the base bill that would have funded moving the terrorists to Thomson.

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