



DAVID STEFFEN

STATE REPRESENTATIVE • 4TH ASSEMBLY DISTRICT

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Contact: Rep. Steffen
(608) 237-9104

Evers Continues to Oppose Closure of Failing GBCI *Governor dismisses prison facility experts and community concerns*

Madison, WI--In a stunning letter to the Village of Allouez, Governor Tony Evers formally rejected multiple state-funded structural engineering reports and community demands to decommission Wisconsin's 126-year old maximum security prison.

State Representative David Steffen (R-Howard) provided the following statement in response to the Governor's letter:

"Governor Evers' decision to ignore decades of structural decay and the escalating safety crisis at GBCI is not only troubling, it's dangerous. It is imperative that the Governor put his politics aside, and face an unavoidable truth: GBCI is structurally and operationally failing. As it takes at least four years to site, design and build a replacement facility, the time to show responsible leadership is now."

Rep. Steffen has worked for eight years to bring attention to the condition and future of one of the nation's oldest prisons. In particular, he has elevated the awareness of multiple independent, state-funded, architectural and engineering reports that have objectively detailed the prison's failing condition—noting that only 5% of the facility isn't in need of repair. In light of these studies, it is unsurprising the facility has been labeled "not suitable for programmed use" by the American Correctional Association and American Disabilities Association.

"It's astonishing that even with overwhelming evidence of the structure's failing condition and a community that is consistently voicing it's concerns over this issue, the Governor still refuses to take action. Our community and our taxpayers deserve action on this and I implore the Governor to reconsider his position," said Rep. Steffen.

For more information please contact the office of Representative Steffen at (608)237-9104 or by email at Rep.Steffen@legis.wisconsin.gov.

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