



HR1053

LRB099 20906 GRL 45713 r

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HOUSE RESOLUTION

2           WHEREAS, The federal government has expressed the intent to  
3 close Guantanamo Bay in Cuba and relocate some of the 91  
4 detainees remaining in the prison to top-security locations on  
5 American soil; and

6           WHEREAS, The Thomson Correctional Center in Thomson,  
7 Illinois was purchased by the Federal Bureau of Prisons in  
8 October of 2012 and is one of the top-security locations being  
9 considered for relocating the detainees; and

10           WHEREAS, The United States Department of Justice has voiced  
11 opposition to using the Thomson Correctional Center as a  
12 federal prison for Guantanamo Bay detainees because the Justice  
13 Department made a public commitment in 2012, after purchasing  
14 the facility, that it would not relocate detainees to the  
15 correctional center; and

16           WHEREAS, Then United States Attorney General, Eric H.  
17 Holder, Jr., pledged to the United States Senate Judiciary  
18 Committee in 2012 not to move detainees from Guantanamo Bay  
19 "regardless of the state of the law"; and

20           WHEREAS, According to a senior administration official of  
21 the Justice Department, federal funding for the Thomson

1 Correctional Center was approved based on the understanding  
2 that no Guantanamo Bay detainees would be transferred to the  
3 center; and

4 WHEREAS, These detainees are unlawful enemy combatants and  
5 should be detained in a purpose-built facility constructed for  
6 the specialized duty of confining such criminals under  
7 extraordinary conditions of high security, including: (a) the  
8 maintenance of a sufficiently secured perimeter around the  
9 facility, and (b) specially trained and specialized security  
10 guards who are members of the United States Armed Forces or be  
11 persons who have undergone equivalent training to members of  
12 the United States Armed Forces; and

13 WHEREAS, The Thomson Correctional Center does not meet the  
14 standards for housing unlawful enemy combatants for an  
15 indefinite amount of time, especially not for those who have  
16 committed some of the most heinous crimes and are considered  
17 public threats such as these detainees; and

18 WHEREAS, Housing these detainees in the State of Illinois  
19 may cause unrest in the community and pose a risk to the  
20 citizens of Illinois; therefore, be it

21 RESOLVED, BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE  
22 NINETY-NINTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that we

1 state the belief that the Thomson Correctional Center, located  
2 in the thickly-populated rural section of northwest Illinois  
3 near the Mississippi River, is not a suitable location for the  
4 indefinite detention of some 91 unlawful enemy combatants from  
5 Guantanamo Bay; and be it further

6 RESOLVED, That we urge the federal government to remember  
7 the pledge set forth by United States Attorney General Eric H.  
8 Holder, Jr. that the Thomson Correctional Center would not be  
9 used to detain prisoners from Guantanamo Bay; and be it further

10 RESOLVED, That we urge President Barack Obama and his  
11 administration, in the weightiest terms, to reconsider the  
12 decision to close the facilities on Guantanamo Bay, Cuba, on  
13 the grounds that such location is by far the safest and best  
14 suited location for the indefinite detention of unlawful enemy  
15 combatants; and be it further

16 RESOLVED, That suitable copies of this resolution be  
17 delivered to the President of the United States, the members of  
18 the Illinois congressional delegation, and the Governor of  
19 Illinois.