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**of**  
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To Whom It May Concern:

I am writing on behalf of the efforts to develop the Liberty Mill Justice Center project in Bellows Falls, Vermont. I first learned of this project from a member of the Bellows Falls Area Development Corporation and have since met with Windham County Sheriff Keith Clark and members of his office. I was impressed with the message I heard and asked if I could write in support of the project.

Since 2008 I have been practicing as a private criminal defense attorney with my office in Brattleboro, Vermont. Prior to beginning my private law practice I was the Windham County State's Attorney for more than 20 years after working throughout Vermont as a state trooper for more than 11 years. Since beginning my career as a state trooper in 1973, I have accumulated more than 40 years of experience with Vermont's criminal justice system.

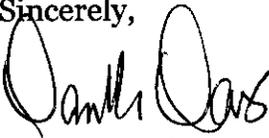
It is my understanding that the Liberty Mill Justice Center will house both Federal and State pre-trial detainees. I will leave it to others to address in detail the benefits of preventing pre-trial detainees from entering the normal prison population. However, I am able to state that Vermont's criminal justice should do as much as possible to prevent first time offenders from entering our normal prison population and will be beneficial in the long run to the detainees.

Providing those offenders being released from custody at the end of their sentences with short-term housing as they re-enter society is crucial to their long-term success. Currently, that service is severely limited in our area.

Studies have shown that by placing offenders in prison for lengthy jail terms does not reduce the rate of recidivism. Not only do they not reduce the rate of recidivism, but lengthy terms of incarceration have also been shown to be detrimental to offenders. Keeping offenders housed in prison is extremely costly and not very effective. Alternatives to keep offenders from prison coupled with providing them with supports and services to assist their job skills will undoubtedly prove to save funding in the long run.

Lastly, my wife, Mary, and I live in the Town of Westminster, VT less than 1 mile from the proposed site of the project. I am familiar with the current building under consideration for the project and can attest that it is an eyesore for the area. Prior to moving to Vermont in 1973, I lived in Walpole, MA with my parents. Both my parent's home and the home of my in-laws were less than 2 miles from two large prisons; MCI – Cedar Junction and MCI – Norfolk. Both properties have been sold and neither of these two prison facilities was detrimental to the property values of either home. I lived in my parent's home, as did Mary in her parent's home for many years and neither of us ever heard community members express concerns for their safety over either prison. Neither Mary nor I have any concerns for our safety, nor those of our community, with the project or the proposed location.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Dan M. Davis". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, prominent initial "D".

Dan M. Davis