



Jim Justice
Governor of West Virginia

April 24, 2020

Director Michael Carvajal
Office of Public Affairs
Central Office
Washington, D.C.

Director Carvajal:

My office has become aware of the transfer of a significant number of prisoners from out of state into West Virginia facilities. While I surely understand the need to transfer prisoners from time to time, now—in the midst of this pandemic—seems unwise and unnecessary. West Virginia has put in place a great many measures designed to mitigate the spread and effects of COVID-19, and our people have very successfully implemented and followed those measures to make this state one of the states with the lowest number of cases and the lowest number of COVID-19-related fatalities in the entire US. We have achieved these results despite having the population considered to be the most vulnerable in the country. Employees of these federal correctional facilities are members of our communities. Requiring those employees to congregate with large groups of potentially infected persons brought in from areas with greater instances of COVID-19 creates an unreasonable and unnecessary risk to those employees, our communities, and the State of West Virginia. I urge, therefore, that the decision to transfer these prisoners into West Virginia be reconsidered to ensure the work that we have done to fight this pandemic is not unintentionally undone by importing inmates who may be carrying the virus into our state.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Jim Justice".

Jim Justice
Governor