

JOSEPH A. GRIFFO
SENATOR, 47TH DISTRICT



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May 3, 2010

Hon. Ruth Hassell-Thompson
612 Legislative Office Bldg.
Albany, NY 12247

Hon. Craig M. Johnson
814 Legislative Office Bldg.
Albany, NY 12247

Dear Senators:

Last month, you probably noted the news stories regarding the discovery by the Comptroller's Office and the Office of Inspector General, regarding the longstanding fraud committed by the former director of the Department of Correctional Services' (DOCS) Food Production Center in Rome where he was able to scam state taxpayers to the tune of \$500,000.

We already know that the fraudulent activities committed by Director Howard Dean and enabled by DOCS management are not isolated incidents. Recent legislative reports by the Assembly Republican Conference and other state legislators uncovered fiscal irresponsibility and reckless abuse of administrative procedures in other areas of DOCS.

The reports point to a shocking lack of internal control within the Department of Correctional Services and suggest that a much more widespread investigation into the operations of the entire Department is merited.

I request that your committees strongly consider conducting a hearing regarding the lack of oversight of the Department of Correctional Services' work locations, to ensure that similar practices are not taking place throughout the state. I think you'll agree with me that a full accounting of the prison system will ensure that more taxpayer dollars are not being wasted.

While I've requested that the Comptroller and IG conduct a thorough audit and investigation to see if the scope of the abuse within the Department is not confined to one office and one man, I believe that a hearing conducted jointly by your committees is warranted. Only a comprehensive audit and investigation of DOCS will reveal just how widespread the culture of corruption is within the Department.

In a time when New York State faces an unprecedented fiscal deficit and hardworking families are trying to make ends meet, there is simply no room for waste and abuse in state government.

I look forward to hearing your thoughts on my request.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Joseph A. Griffo".

Joseph A. Griffo
State Senator

Cc: Sen. Martin J. Golden
Sen. George H. Winner

