



COMMONWEALTH of VIRGINIA
Office of the Governor

Robert F. McDonnell
Governor

May 17, 2010

The Honorable Eric H. Holder, Jr.
Attorney General of the United States
950 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W.
Washington, DC 20530-0001

Re: Jens Soering

Dear General Holder:

I am writing you today regarding some general comments that you made concerning Virginia state inmate Jens Soering. These comments were made in response to a question posed by Congressman Goodlatte at a House Judiciary Committee Hearing on May 13, 2010.

As you are aware, on January 19, 2010, shortly after I took office as the Governor of Virginia, I sent you a letter, which also was emailed to your staff, regarding Jens Soering. In the January 19th letter, a copy of which is attached hereto, I formally revoked Virginia's consent to the transfer of Jens Soering, which had previously been authorized by then-Governor Tim Kaine but not acted upon by the Department of Justice. Virginia's Secretary of Public Safety, Marla Graff Decker, confirmed with the Department of Justice that the letter had been received and that nothing further needed to be done by our Administration regarding the matter.

In light of your public comments at last week's hearing, I want to formally reiterate that Virginia has clearly revoked authorization for a transfer of Jens Soering to Germany. Soering is currently in Virginia's custody for state offenses and he will remain so in order to serve out his Virginia sentence for the horrendous crimes he committed in our Commonwealth.

This is not a federal matter. The position of the Commonwealth is clear. It is important that any consideration of a transfer be officially terminated and that the matter be put to rest. We look forward to formal word from the Department of Justice. I thank you for your prompt consideration in this matter.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Robert F. McDonnell".

Robert F. McDonnell

RFM/mgd
Attachment

cc: The Honorable Robert William Goodlatte