



August 25, 2015

The Honorable Ashton B. Carter
Secretary
U.S. Department of Defense
1000 Defense Pentagon
Washington, D.C. 20301

Dear Secretary Carter,

We recently received notice that the Department of Defense is surveying the U.S. Naval Consolidated Brig in Charleston, South Carolina and the U.S. Disciplinary Barracks at Fort Leavenworth, Kansas to assess the possibility of housing Guantanamo Bay detainees. Simply put, we do not want them in our states.

Those who are held at Guantanamo Bay are among the deadliest terrorists in history, including the principle architect of the September 11, 2001 attacks – Khalid Sheikh Mohammed. In response to a previous attempt by this Administration to transfer these detainees to the United States in 2009, Congress unambiguously prohibited such transfers, and has extended that prohibition every year since. Any detainee transfer from Guantanamo Bay to the United States would be a violation of federal law, a law we hope this Administration will respect and faithfully execute.

South Carolina and Kansas are sovereign states with excellent military installations, and we are proud of the men and women in uniform, and their families, who sacrifice for us every single day and call our states home. We will not be part of any illegal and ill-advised action by this Administration, especially when that action relates to importing terrorists into our states. Please know that we will take any action within our power to make sure no Guantanamo Bay detainees are transferred to South Carolina or Kansas.

Sincerely,

Handwritten signature of Nikki R. Haley in black ink.

Nikki R. Haley
Governor, South Carolina

Handwritten signature of Sam Brownback in black ink.

Sam Brownback
Governor, Kansas