



# Benson Public Schools

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District #777

ISD #777 Resolution of Support

1400 Montana Ave., Benson, MN 56215  
Phone: (320) 843-2710 Fax: 843-2262

Date: November 16, 2015

**WHEREAS**, according to the Minnesota Department of Corrections, the State of Minnesota's prison population exceeds capacity; and

**WHEREAS**, the Minnesota Department of Corrections is housing 560 inmates in county jails where they cannot receive critical rehabilitation services available in State correctional facilities; and

**WHEREAS**, the Minnesota Department of Corrections projects the State of Minnesota's prison population will grow by at least 500 inmates by the year 2020; and

**WHEREAS**, the Minnesota Department of Corrections is seeking \$141.5 million in general obligation bonds to finance the construction of a 500-bed expansion at Minnesota Correctional Facility – Rush City to accommodate projected prison population growth; and

**WHEREAS**, the State of Minnesota would incur additional costs such as interest, debt service, maintenance, and annual operating costs associated with expanding Minnesota Correctional Facility – Rush City; and

**WHEREAS**, the City of Appleton is home to a vacant and well-maintained 1,600-bed prison; and

**WHEREAS**, 350 people from 24 surrounding counties worked at the Appleton prison when it was in use, generating an estimated \$15.2 million for the regional economy; and

**WHEREAS**, many ancillary businesses and Districts in the region and their workers benefitted when the Appleton prison was in use; and

**WHEREAS**, the region offers robust infrastructure to provide rehabilitation services for State of Minnesota inmates and a great quality of life for working families; and

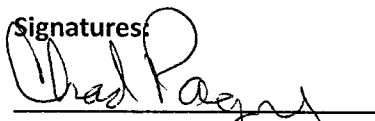
**WHEREAS**, the cost to the State of Minnesota to lease the Appleton prison is estimated to be \$6-8 million per year, plus annual operating costs – substantially lower than constructing and maintaining new, permanent correctional facilities; and

**WHEREAS**, it is practical that the State of Minnesota do its due diligence to fairly consider the costs associated with leasing and operating the Appleton prison before constructing new, permanent correctional facilities;


**NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED**, that on November 16, 2015 the ISD #777 Benson Public School Board declared its support for a proposal for the State of Minnesota to lease and operate the Appleton

prison with State of Minnesota public employees to provide much-needed jobs and economic development for the people of West Central Minnesota and to provide effective rehabilitation services for inmates needed to reduce recidivism.

Signatures:

  
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School Board Chair

  
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School Board Clerk