

## Maine Prisoner Advocacy Coalition

c/o Ron Huber, WRFR Community Radio, 20 Gay Street, Rockland ME, 04841  
(207) 594-0721 station office \*\* (207) 593-0013 call-in line.

3/11/11

Brandon Thongsavanh # 364054  
MacDougall Correctional Institution  
1153 East Street South,  
Suffield CT, 06080

Dear Mr. Thongsavanh

Thank you for your March 7<sup>th</sup> reply to our letter. We'll be sure the legislators get your letter to them. You asked if there was anything else you could do to help get the bill LD 690 passed. Here are several ideas.

Can you send us letters that the Maine DOC has sent you, and you have sent them? Including those used to ship you out, and those denying requests to come back home to Maine? Or other letters Maine DOC has sent you as an interstate compact prisoner.

These will be very important in helping the legislators and Governor Lepage and us understand how flimsy the DOC's reasons are for shipping you and about two dozen other Mainer prisoners out and then keeping you out.

Maine DOC has declared all info about why you and others were shipped out to prisons outside of Maine as "confidential" and won't release anything in their files without your "informed written consent".

Please consider doing this. Below is a template of wording you should have in the letter. But since they may take a while to answer back on that, anything you you can mail us that you already have from Maine DOC of the CT prison you are now at, or from Arizona when you were there, will make a big difference in the hearings about the bill. All documents you send us will be copied and then mailed right back to you, if you wish.

Draft wording for the letter

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Commissioner Joseph Ponte,  
Maine Department of Corrections,  
State House Station # 111  
Augusta ME 04333

DATE

Dear Commissioner

I am writing to give my informed written consent for Ron Huber of the Maine Prisoner Advocacy Coalition (M-PAC) to review and copy any and all documents in Maine Department of Corrections files pertaining to me that I may disclose under the law. This is pursuant to MRSA 4-A § 1216 "Confidentiality of information". I do not want to review the documents being sought by Mr. Huber ahead of time.

Sincerely ,

Your name

cc: Ron Huber, Maine Prisoners Advocacy Coalition

If you write that letter and send it to us at the WRFR Community Radio address where I work, I will make a copy for us, and then hand deliver the original to Commissioner Ponte's office; this might get them moving fast enough for us to get to those files before the legislature holds its hearings on the bill LD 690. If you tell them you don't want to review the documents first, it will save us weeks of delay. I promise we will send you a list of all the documents in that file, and a list of everything that we make copies of to show the legislature, the governor and the media. We will also make you copies of anything you select from that list of documents that MDOC has about you.

Do you have telephone privileges? If you can call my radio show any Saturday, between 12:30 and 3:30, we can do an interview about life in exile and what you think about coming back to MSP. Or if your family or others on your phone list could record a call of you about this and can get us the tape or digital copy, we will air that. Don't worry, we can edit out the personal stuff and pauses or flubs (just say 'take 2' and then repeat the sentence the way you want it, we'll delete the earlier version of that sentence). Doesn't have to be high quality recording they can record you off a speakerphone or turn on the answering machine while you are talking. It's legal in Maine to record phone calls. But I don't know whether they might punish you for doing this so if you don't want to do audio, that's fine.

Best wishes

Ron Huber  
Maine Prisoner Advocacy Coalition