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DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTIONS  
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Website ([www.doc.state.ia.us](http://www.doc.state.ia.us))

September 18, 2006

Sam Leto  
Legislative Services Agency  
1112 East Grand Avenue  
Des Moines, IA 50319  
LOCAL

Dear Mr. Leto,

Thanks for the chance to respond to this issue. First, DOC would be willing to appear before the Oversight Committee and discuss this or any other issue that the Committee feels appropriate. The issue raised about waste in our usage of salt and pepper packets is incorrect for the simple reason that offenders tend to over use salt, thereby causing medical issues that must be dealt with. The limited portion helps reduce that problem. The cost of medical services far exceeds the extra cost we pay for the packets; also, salt and pepper shakers have at time been used as weapons.

The assertion that we have a boiler sitting unused on the ground is correct, in that the boiler is sitting on the ground unconnected to any pipe that supplies heating or cooling to the institution. This boiler was salvaged about 10 years ago from Iowa State Penitentiary when that institution expanded and upgraded its boilers. Mt. Pleasant had the same old boiler that Ft. Madison had and instead of buying a very expensive new boiler, Mt. Pleasant staff use this old boiler for spare parts thereby reducing costs to taxpayers. Eventually, Mt. Pleasant will have to replace the boilers with new energy efficient models.

As far as commenting on staff actions at Mt. Pleasant, I can tell you that there are numerous opportunities for offenders to make their grievances known to the public and Legislature. The Ombudsman and Corrections have a long history of working together to solve offender complaints. Additionally, DOC has a long and documented history of reviewing and taking action against both offenders and staff that take inappropriate actions. Again, there are well established paths for offenders to raise this type of issue. I hope this brief summary provides the information you were seeking, if additional details are required please let me know and I would be happy to provide whatever is needed.

The mission of the Iowa Department of Corrections is to:  
**Protect the Public, the Employees, and the Offenders**

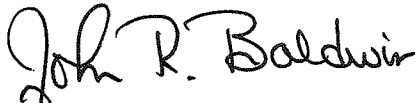
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Finally, you asked us to comment on cost savings ideas. Currently, DOC is involved in several new cost savings initiatives. The savings initiatives range from food acquisition, pharmacy and offender banking to centralizing our offender transportation system. DOC is confident these initiatives will result in quantifiable savings and have included these savings into our FY 2008 budget request that was approved by the Board of Corrections on September 14, 2006.

DOC would welcome the opportunity to present our cost savings initiatives before the Oversight Committee.

Thank you.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "John R. Baldwin". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial "J".

John R. Baldwin, Deputy Director  
Administration

JRB/ifo