Date: June 12, 2012

To Whom it May Concern:

Solitary Confinement at Tamms Supermax has cost the taxpayers enough. It was not designed to rehabilitate but to debilitate. It is another Guantanemo Bay, no educational programs, religious programs, jobs etc. Only dismal gray walls designed to break the spirit and mind. The self-inflicted cuttings of the inmates, the inhumane treatment, and the concrete beds, not being able to feel the sun or breathe in fresh air from outdoors are torture. Locked up twenty three to twenty four hours in a gray box is a slow death. Groups against the abuse of animals are appalled when an animal is abused are these human beings less than animals? Twenty six million dollars spent a year to house less than two hundred inmates in supermax, Tamms is two-thirds empty and overstaffed. According to IDOC only twenty five of the inmates are considered extremely dangerous. The question is, are these inmates being driven slowly insane for the sake of jobs for the Southern Region?

Some of these men are in Tamms simply because they filed too many grievances against IDOC. There are some that don't know why they were sent to Tamms. It was reported by IDOC that there is space for these men at Pontiac and Menard in the former death-row cell blocks. In the past four years, at least 80 men have been transferred safely from Tamms. Some go to medium-security prisons and others have been released. Self-Mutilation, smearing of feces, suicide attempts and other psychiatric symptoms are common at Tamms and known consequences of long-term solitary confinement. This is why Tamms is condemned by international human rights monitors. This is not the answer. Concrete Tombs, no human touch, shackled feet and hands, whenever there is any movement is not inactive of rehabilitation. Could anyone of us survive this torture on a daily basis? Some of the inmates have been in this condition for over a decade. I am not against punishment for a crime, but solitary confinement is torture. Please end Solitary Confinement.

Respectfully Submitted,

Brenda Smith