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Jan. 16, 2007

Dear Senator Casey, Specter, & Rep. Platts

As your constituents in Pennsylvania, we members of York Monthly Meeting of the Religious Society of Friends (Quakers) have deep concerns about the recent passage of the Military Commissions Act and its ramifications in legitimizing and condoning the use of torture by our government. As Quakers, we believe in the dignity and value of every human life. This flows from our belief that there is "That of God" in every person, which is a fundamental reason for our opposition to war. We also believe that torture is absolutely wrong. It is wrong to torture anyone, for any reason. Further, all people should be treated with dignity and respect. We stand firmly opposed to torture, and ask all government leaders, especially those of our country, to stop using torture in any way, for any purpose.

As it stands, the Military Commissions Act authorizes the president to order torture and abusive, humiliating treatment; permits indefinite detention of human beings without safeguards recognized as essential by U.S. law and treaty obligations; and transfers significant congressional power to the president. This legislation is morally reprehensible. It eliminates protections that go back more than 800 years.

We ask that you introduce new legislation that will eliminate these degrading parts of the Military Commissions Act and will restore our country's respect for human life and the rule of law.

We also invite you to attend the Quaker Initiative to End Torture, which will be held next June, 2007, at Guilford College.

In peace,

Pat Long

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Clerk of Peace and Social Concerns Committee

York Monthly Meeting (Quakers)

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