

Washington, DC -- U.S. Representative Michael A. Arcuri (D-Utica) sent a letter to New York State Department of Correctional Services Commissioner Brian Fischer yesterday objecting to the state's plans to close Camp Pharsalia.

"I strongly urge the Commissioner and the state to take a hard look at the negative implications closing Camp Pharsalia will have on the Chenango County economy," **Arcuri said**. "For far too long private businesses have moved away from Chenango County – closing a state facility that supports 104 local jobs is the wrong course of action. In Washington, I will continue to work to provide local communities with the resources to maintain and create good-paying jobs throughout our region."

In his letter to Commissioner Fischer, Arcuri highlighted Camp Pharsalia's role in the Chenango County economy. The Camp provides 104 local jobs and economic spin-off to over 40 local small businesses.

A copy of Arcuri's letter to Commissioner Fischer is attached below:

February 12, 2008

Mr. Brian Fischer, Commissioner
New York State Department of Correctional Services
Building 2
1220 Washington Avenue
Albany, New York 12226-2050

Dear Commissioner Fischer:

It has recently come to my attention that Camp Pharsalia, located in Chenango County, is being considered for closure by the New York State Department of Correctional Services. As you know, Camp Pharsalia was the first minimum security facility established in New York State, and serves as a critical component of the Chenango County economy supporting 104 local

jobs. Camp Pharsalia also provides a significant economic spin-off to over 40 local small businesses through procurement.

Unfortunately, Chenango County has fallen victim to substantial private sector job loss in recent years. Most recently, Proctor and Gamble Pharmaceuticals announced that the company's Norwich facility, which employs 160 local men and women, will close by December 2009. The closure of Camp Pharsalia will have even further devastating ramifications on the local economy.

As you move forward, it is my sincere hope that you will provide strong consideration to the devastating impact closing Camp Pharsalia will have on the Chenango County economy and the 104 families who derive their livelihood working there. My district director, Mr. Joseph Johnson, is standing by to discuss this issue further with the appropriate members of your staff. Mr. Johnson can be reached by calling (315) 793-8146. I am hopeful that you can provide my staff with an update regarding Camp Pharsalia, and your department's justification for considering it for closure.

Thank you in advance for your prompt attention to this matter. Please do not hesitate to contact me directly if you have any questions or concerns.

Sincerely,

MICHAEL A. ARCURI
Member of Congress

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