



# COMMONWEALTH of VIRGINIA

## Office of the Governor

Robert F. McDonnell  
Governor

January 19, 2010

The Honorable Eric H. Holder, Jr.  
Attorney General of the United States  
950 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W.  
Washington, DC 20530-0001

Re: Jens Soering

Dear General Holder:

I am writing you about a time sensitive matter of great concern. Jens Soering is a Virginia state inmate. He was convicted in 1990 by a jury in the Circuit Court of Bedford County, Virginia of two counts of first degree murder for the 1985 killings of Derek Haysom and Nancy Haysom in their Bedford County home. Soering was sentenced to serve two life terms of imprisonment for these brutal and premeditated murders. After Soering killed both of his victims by stabbing them multiple times, he fled to Europe. Elizabeth Haysom, his girlfriend and the daughter of the victims, joined him there. Soering later was incarcerated in London on various fraud charges. During that time, he confessed in detail on several occasions to planning and executing the murders.

Governor Timothy M. Kaine, as one of his official exercises of executive power, sent a letter on January 12, 2010, to the United States Department of Justice on behalf of the Commonwealth of Virginia agreeing to the international transfer of Soering, the son of a German diplomat, to German confinement, pursuant to 18 U.S.C. §4100-4115.

I was not privy to Governor Kaine's letter nor was I, as Governor-elect, consulted on his actions. However, since taking office on January 16, 2010, my staff has been contacted by several Virginia legislators and other public officials. Further, I have been personally contacted by the Attorney General of Virginia about this matter. My staff has reviewed the case with members of the Attorney General's staff, the Bedford County Commonwealth's Attorney, and the Bedford County Sheriff. All parties are in agreement that Virginia must oppose this transfer. I believe that as the Governor of Virginia, with custody of Jens Soering, I am responsible for ensuring that justice is done. It is imperative that Soering serve out his punishment in the Commonwealth of Virginia. Consequently, I hereby revoke Virginia's consent to the transfer of

Soering to the federal government. Should you have any questions, please contact Marla Graff Decker, Secretary of Public Safety at 804.786.5351. I regret any inconvenience this may cause you or your staff.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Robert F. McDonnell". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, prominent "R" and "M".

Robert F. McDonnell