March 26, 2015

Governor Tom Wolf

Commonwealth of Pennsylvania

200 South Broad Street

Philadelphia, PA 19102

**Dear Governor Wolf:**

We are members of the Working Group on Mass Incarceration of the Germantown Meeting of the Religious Society of Friends, the largest and one of the oldest Quaker meetings in Philadelphia. We applaud and support your forthright action last month in declaring a moratorium on the use of the death penalty. Quakers have long taken an absolute position in opposition to the death penalty, knowing that it restores no one to life. We also know that the implementation of the death penalty is fraught with concerns about its basic fairness, exemplified by its racial and economic disparities. The capital sentencing system is also, as you strongly noted in your statement on the matter, not infallible and prone to error.

We know that your position on this issue has many critics. For our part, we thank you for taking this courageous position, particularly in the face of significant political opposition. We do feel that your action is very much in keeping with the spirit of the people who initially settled here from England seeking a peaceful and just commonwealth.

Peace,

**Ed Nakawatase**, clerk, Working Group on Mass Incarceration

**Joanne Sharpless**

**Chris Nicholson**

**Phoebe Jones**

**Betty-Ann Workman**

**Jack Malinowski**