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April 9, 2009

Mr. Harley G. Lappin
Director, Federal Bureau of Prisons
Home Owners Loan Corporation Building
320 First Street NW, Room 654
Washington, DC 20534

Dear Mr. Lappin:

The American Bus Association, and its 800 bus operator members who account for two-thirds of all U.S. motorcoaches, is outraged that your agency has, for at least four years, and continues a dangerous policy of placing unescorted prisoners on independently run buses to transfer them to different prison facilities, often several states away.

It is unfathomable that your agency would engage in such a practice at all. But to do so without even informing our bus operator members or their passengers imperils public safety, violates the principle of government transparency, and requires us to demand that such practices cease and desist immediately.

At a time when security and safety remains a top public policy priority for our nation, the BOP's practice of surreptitiously buying tickets for prisoners, giving those tickets to such prisoners and putting them on intercity buses *with no law enforcement oversight* is in direct conflict with the purpose we have a Department of Homeland Security and the Transportation Security Administration. No bus operator or driver can possibly monitor a prisoner who is traveling incognito. Though when one decides to escape, as several have, it's clear the unescorted prisoner program is ill-advised.

This letter hereby serves as notice that no ABA member bus operator will provide service to any unescorted prisoner -- under any circumstances.

Sincerely,

Peter J. Pantuso
President & CEO
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