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MICHAEL A. COSENTINO
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January 13, 2016

Via email only: mahearn@gov.in.gov

Governor Mike Pence
C/O Mr. Mark Ahearn
General Counselor to the Governor

Re: *State v. Keith Cooper*

Dear Governor Pence:

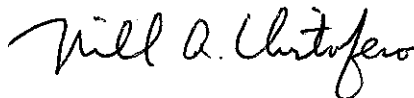
I am the former Deputy Prosecuting Attorney that prosecuted Keith Cooper in the Elkhart County Circuit Court. I am writing to you in support of Mr. Cooper's Petition for a Pardon.

Mr. Cooper should be pardoned because evidence not available at the time of his trial now exonerates him. The DNA evidence available now establishes that Mr. Cooper is excluded from being the person wearing the hat at the time of the offense. More importantly, the eye-witnesses have recanted their identification of Mr. Cooper and now positively identify another person. Mr. Cooper was convicted on the eye-witness testimony which now has been recanted. Accordingly, the evidence available to the State of Indiana at this time exonerates Keith Cooper.

Justice demands that Mr. Cooper be pardoned. As an attorney, I certainly understand Mr. Cooper's procedural decision which allowed him to be released from prison but did not remove his conviction. Justice however should not be circumvented under this set of circumstances on procedural grounds. We cannot undo the wrongful imprisonment of Mr. Cooper, but we can undo his wrongful conviction with a pardon.

I would urge you to pardon Keith Cooper. I thank you for your time and consideration. Please contact me if you have any additional questions.

Very truly yours,



Michael A. Christofeno

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