

Lisa P. Jackson, Commissioner DEP  
401 E. State Street  
P.O. Box 402  
Trenton, NJ 08625-0402

Dear Commissioner Jackson,

The New Jersey Division of Parks and Forestry provides the residents of our state an economical and efficient opportunity for many forms of recreation and environmental education. Picnicking, hiking, swimming, camping, boating, fishing, hunting, mountain biking, cross-country skiing, snow shoeing, birding, star gazing, wild-flowering, rock climbing, etc., etc. These are just some of the many activities that can be enjoyed for free or a very nominal cost.

The budget cuts recently proposed by Governor Corzine to close or consolidate some of our state parks and forests will penalize the residents of our state for the previous inappropriate deficit spending by our politicians. This is wrong! With the upcoming summer season fast approaching, we must avoid at all costs, the loss of the economical recreational benefits that our parks and forests provide and avoid a negative impact on eco-tourism revenue. Further, the proposed closures and consolidations will result in a lack of maintenance and management continuity. This will only accelerate the deterioration of our parks and forest facilities caused by previous under-funding. Please find more appropriate places to cut the budget. It must be a priority to keep our parks and forests open for the benefit of our residents.

Thank you.

Very truly yours,