

ANDREW M. CUOMO  
GOVERNOR



JOE MARTENS  
COMMISSIONER

STATE OF NEW YORK  
DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL CONSERVATION  
ALBANY, NEW YORK 12233-1010

June 19, 2013

Mr. Jason Kemper  
Chairman, Conservation Fund Advisory Board  
625 Broadway  
Albany, NY 12233

Dear Chairman Kemper:

Thank you for your letter dated May 22, 2013. Your letter raises important issues regarding the use of the Conservation Fund and the DEC's resources to implement its mission.

First, let me take this opportunity to express my appreciation for the opportunity to work with you, the Conservation Fund Advisory Board (CFAB) and other stakeholders to promote outdoor recreation, hunting, fishing and trapping in New York State. The Governor took a substantial step forward this year to promote New York State as a destination for outdoor recreation. With your support, the executive budget reformed the structure used by DEC to issue hunting, fishing and trapping licenses. New York State now can boast a streamlined user-friendly system for issuing such licenses. We have also embarked on a multi-year program to enhance access to state lands for all New Yorkers and to provide connections of these state lands to the host communities. Your continued support of these and other efforts to benefit New York's sportsmen and women and your continued involvement with my staff on these issues are appreciated.

As you know, DEC is holding an academy for the Division of Law Enforcement (DLE) and the Division of Forest Protection. This is the first academy held by DEC in over four years. You correctly note that DEC has funded thirty-two Environmental Conservation Officers (ECOs) recruits from the Conservation Fund. These positions are sorely needed in order to fulfill our responsibility to promote compliance with New York's hunting, fishing and trapping laws. We expect that ECOs graduating from the 2013 Academy will continue to have their salaries and fringe benefits paid from the Conservation Fund. We also expect that some of the Academy expenses will be paid for using Conservation Fund dollars, but the exact amount is unknown at this point in time.

DEC has been and will continue to be diligent in tracking the level of effort by DLE to support fish and wildlife goals. As a group, ECO's dedicate more of their time to fish and wildlife purposes than the Conservation Fund pays for in helping deliver the program. Table 1 below shows DLE's level of effort over the last five years exceeding the percentage of support for DLE's activities provided by the Conservation Fund.

SFY	Total DLE Expenditures for FW&M	Conservation Fund Expenditures	DLE Percentage of Effort for FW&M	Percentage Paid by Conservation Fund
2007-08	27,751,428	9,502,804	65.54%	34.24%
2008-09	18,867,333	3,528,940	46.71%	18.70%
2009-10	22,303,451	1,048,225	55.87%	4.70%
2010-11	20,507,297	2,948,951	52.67%	14.38%
2011-12	31,755,992	5,917,959	50.80%	18.64%

Similarly, the total fish & wildlife effort -- i.e. broader than the Division of Law Enforcement -- exceeds what the Fund pays for throughout the entire agency. The last level of effort report monetized the total level of effort at \$120,686,314, of which the Conservation Fund paid \$39,872,603. Other sources of funding that support the fish and wildlife effort include federal sources, such as Pittman-Roberts funds, State Wildlife Grants and the Fisheries Grant, as well as State capital funds and New York's Environmental Protection Fund. Together, these sources of funding support a diverse and robust program to maintain healthy fish and wildlife populations and protect or preserve the ecosystems that support them; and provide high quality opportunities for hunting and angling; provide enforcement, education and outreach to promote these outdoor sports and ensure public safety.

You also requested information on DLE staffing levels for the past ten years and their source of funding. The table below summarizes the answers to your questions regarding staffing since 2003.

Fiscal Year	Division of Law Enforcement Staffing		Division of Fish, Wildlife & Marine Resources Staffing			DEC Staff
	Conservation Fund (all accounts)	All Funding	Main Acct	Marine Acct	All Funding	Conservation Fund (all accounts)
2003	127	319	249	9	445	419
2004	132	329	246	9	387	426
2005	137	341	245	9	385	430
2006	130	331	253	9	393	434
2007	133	336	250	10	401	432
2008	80	340	259	13	427	390
2009	10	336	189	12	415	225
2010	8	321	261	37	400	319
2011	8	304	233	32	351	286
2012	22	292	238	9	360	278
2013	62	279	239	10	363	322
w/ Academy	88	305				

We consider DLE's enforcement efforts key in the successful delivery of DEC's fish, wildlife and marine program and feel very fortunate to be able to fund the Academy recruits from the Conservation Fund. DEC welcomes CFAB's recommendations and we will continue to work together to promote programs and the delivery of services that meet the needs of the sportsmen and sportswomen throughout the state.

Sincerely,



Joseph J. Martens