



# Senate Environmental Resources and Energy Committee

## Senator Mary Jo White Chairman

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To: All Republican Senators

From: Senator Mary Jo White, Chairman  
Senate Environmental Resources & Energy Committee

Date: May 28, 2009

Re: DEP & DCNR Scare Tactics on SB 850

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Many of your offices have been contacted by constituents in response to press statements put out by DEP and DCNR alleging draconian cuts in state services should SB 850 be enacted.

Other constituent contacts have been generated by press releases issued by Pennfuture which repeat the irresponsible claims of DEP and DCNR. It should be noted that Pennfuture is the previous employer of both DEP Secretary John Hanger and DCNR Acting Secretary John Quigley. Pennfuture has also received nearly \$300,000 in grants from DEP since last September.

You may wish to keep the following in mind when responding to constituents on these issues:

### DEP

- Energy Efficiency – Senators are accused of eliminating the \$15 million for Keystone HELP, which funds energy efficiency projects for homes and small businesses. DEP and Pennfuture fail to note that Pennsylvania is receiving nearly \$130 million for these projects under the federal stimulus law, which also includes an additional \$220 million for weatherization.
- West Nile Virus – Senators are accused of imperiling public health, despite appropriating \$5.193 million for this program which includes the same amount (\$4.25 million) for the county spraying program as requested by the Governor for FY '09-'10.
- Flood Control – While bemoaning a \$1.4 million funding reduction, DEP ignores that the Senate authorized \$100 million for flood projects under the H2O PA Act last year, \$90 million of which remains unspent.
- Alternative Energy, Growing Greener & PENNVEST – despite claims to the contrary, SB 850 does not reduce any of the bond funds supporting these programs.

### DCNR

- State Park Closure – DCNR claims no state parks would close under Gov. Rendell's proposed 4.5% funding cut; yet nearly one-third of all state parks (35-40) would close under SB 850's 15% reduction over last year's spending. These numbers simply don't add up.

- Carbon Sequestration Network – DCNR has voluntarily encumbered nearly \$7 million in its Oil and Gas Lease Fund to build a carbon sequestration network. DCNR could easily forego this network – which cannot be built and operated without statutory approval – to ensure that no state park closed.
- Gypsy Moth Spraying – SB 850 appropriates \$4.387 million for gypsy moth spraying in FY '09-'10 – the same amount Governor Rendell authorized in FY '08-'09.
- Marcellus Shale Natural Gas Lease – DCNR and Seneca Resources failed to close on two tracts of state forest bid last September for natural gas development. The next highest bidder has offered nearly \$20 million less than Seneca Resources. These are funds that otherwise would have been available for DCNR and the state's budget. Additional modest state forest leases could easily bring in nearly \$100 million to the Commonwealth.
- Tree Seedlings – SB 850 does not eliminate DCNR's tree seedling sales program. This is a voluntary decision by DCNR that could be averted by pricing seedlings at actual cost.

Should you have any questions or require additional information, please do not hesitate to contact me or Patrick Henderson of my office at 787-9684.