

Adirondack Council, American Lung Association in New York, Audubon New York, Catskill Mountain Keeper, Citizens Campaign for the Environment, Environmental Advocates of New York, Environmental Defense Fund, Hudson Riverkeeper, Long Island Drinking Water Coalition, Long Island Environmental Voter's Forum, Long Island Pine Barrens Society, National Wildlife Federation, Natural Resources Defense Council, New York League of Conservation Voters, New York Public Interest Research Group, Open Space Institute, Parks & Trails New York, Pace Energy & Climate Center, Scenic Hudson, Sierra Club Atlantic Chapter, Theodore Gordon Flyfishers, Inc.

**A Public Letter to Andrew Cuomo and Carl Paladino
October 27, 2010**

Honorable Andrew Cuomo
Cuomo 2010
195 Broadway, 18th Floor
New York, NY 10007

Carl Paladino
Paladino for the People HQ
Ellicott Square Building #201
Buffalo, NY 14203

Dear Candidates for New York State Governor:

With only a few days until the November 2nd election, we the undersigned ask that you share with the public your vision for conservation and environmental protection in New York State.

The events surrounding the sudden dismissal of Pete Grannis, Commissioner of the Department of Environmental Conservation, highlighted the dire state of that agency, but also serve as a powerful and very public reminder of long-standing problems that are now endemic to New York State's efforts to protect public health, provide stewardship of our lands, and prevent our air and water from being polluted.

- Since April 2008 the Department of Environmental Conservation has lost 849 of its scientists, engineers, and enforcement officials — one-quarter of its total workforce. The Office of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation has lost more than 20 percent of its permanent staff, as well as 1,000 seasonal staff.
- The Department of Environmental Conservation and the Office of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation have lost 15 percent of their resources in the past year, a disproportionate reduction compared to the one to two percent lost by other agencies.
- Support for the Environmental Protection Fund was slashed almost 40 percent from the previous year, on top of \$500 million in raids by past administrations, leaving municipalities and non-profit groups waiting for payments to support ongoing efforts to protect drinking water, reduce solid waste, and improve the quality of life in New York's communities.

As representatives of the state's environmental community we ask that you seize this opportunity and inform the public how you, as Governor, would address the stewardship and protection of our natural resources, restore the capacity of the state's environmental agencies, and renew New York's investment in the programs that are so important to improving and maintaining its citizens quality of life and protecting public health.

The public looks forward to your response in the coming days.

Respectfully,

Brian L. Houseal, Executive Director
Adirondack Council

Scott Santarella, President & Chief Executive
Officer
American Lung Association in New York

Albert E. Caccese, Executive Director
Audubon New York

Ramsay Adams, Executive Director
Catskill Mountainkeeper

Adrienne Esposito, Executive Director
Citizens Campaign for the Environment

Robert J. Moore, Executive Director
Environmental Advocates of New York

Jim T.B. Tripp, Senior Counsel
Environmental Defense Fund

Paul Gallay, Executive Director
Hudson Riverkeeper

Matthew Meng
Long Island Drinking Water Coalition

Thomas Casey, Executive Director
Long Island Environmental Voters Form

Richard Amper, Executive Director
Long Island Pine Barrens Society

Curtis Fisher, Regional Executive Director
National Wildlife Federation

Richard Schrader
Natural Resources Defense Council

Marcia Bystryn, President
New York League of Conservation Voters

Rebecca J. Webber, Executive Director
New York Public Interest Research Group

Joseph Martens, President
Open Space Institute

Robin Dropkin, Executive Director
Parks & Trails New York

Jackson Morris, Senior Policy Advisor
Pace Energy & Climate Center

Ned Sullivan, President
Scenic Hudson

Susan Lawrence, Conservation Chair
Sierra Club Atlantic Chapter

John L. Barrone, Vice President of Conservation
Theodore Gordon Flyfishers, Inc.