

Henry Lee

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November 14, 2011

Senator Stephen M. Brewer
Chair, Senate Committee on Ways & Means
Massachusetts State House, Room 212
Boston, MA 02133

Representative Brian S. Dempsey
Chair, House Committee on Ways & Means
Massachusetts State House, Room 243
Boston, MA 02133

RE: Fiscal Year 2012 Supplemental Appropriations

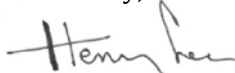
Dear Chairman Brewer and Chairman Dempsey:

Recently the Administration filed with the House a proposal for Supplemental Appropriations which included a provision for the Executive Office of Energy and Environmental Affairs. On behalf of the Stewardship Council of the Department of Conservation and Recreation (DCR) and as its Chairperson, I fully support this request.

For a number of years the Stewardship Council has worked with members of the legislature and with the DCR staff to develop ways to generate additional funding in order to buttress the agency's ability to plug gaps in its operations and park maintenance as well as more easily and economically take on special projects requested by constituents some of which have been difficult to accommodate in the past. At a time of unprecedented demand for and use of its facilities, DCR appropriations have fallen far below the minimum level we believe is needed to meet public and legislative demands. The proposal in the Supplemental request, which has its roots in both the legislature and administration, would challenge DCR staff to generate incremental funding above its annual re-appropriated revenue and allow the agency to supplement critical, though currently insufficient, annual appropriations.

The Supplemental budget would encourage DCR to become more entrepreneurial and responsive which, we believe, would result in better maintained parks and facilities and more general revenue over time for the State. We urge your support for this Supplemental provision.

Sincerely,



Henry Lee
Chairman, DCR Stewardship Council

cc: Secretary Richard K. Sullivan, Jr. (EOEEA)
Commissioner Edward M. Lambert, Jr. (DCR)
DCR Stewardship Council