

April 27, 2007

Commissioner Lisa P. Jackson  
Department of Environmental Protection  
PO Box 402  
Trenton, NJ 08625-0402

Dear Commissioner Jackson:

Thank you for spending time with me following Governor Corzine's State of the State address on January 9, 2006. Our discussion included various issues, among them funding for the Lake Hopatcong Commission in the 2008 fiscal budget.

I do understand that there are serious fiscal constraints in New Jersey; however, I am disappointed that the Administration does not recognize that the Lake Hopatcong Commission is instrumental in keeping Lake Hopatcong a viable and healthy State Resource. I am also chagrined that the Administration does not seem to be aware of the value that the Commission performs for the State of New Jersey and Lake Hopatcong and has determined that it is not going to fund the Commission in FY 2007-2008. I would hope that the Administration revisits this lack of understanding and determines that the Commission is a very important resource and allocates dollars which are a very small percentage of the budget to the Commission.

As you well know, with the mild winter we are experiencing, weed growth in the Lake will be exacerbated this year and possibly exceed last year's growth by a much higher percentage. If this should happen what are the Administration's plans to conduct the weed harvesting that is necessary for the health of the lake, in addition to the revenues lost that are provided to the General Fund (\$200 M in fees and taxes) if the Commission is forced to exist?

In conclusion, I am looking forward to a meeting with you and other decision makers in the Administration in reversing this decision.

Sincerely,

Anthony R. Bucco  
Senator, District 25

ARB/bk  
Jackson07budget.doc

Cc: Director Art Ondish