



June 27, 2012

The Honorable William F. Adolph, Jr.  
Chairman, House Appropriations Committee  
245 Main Capitol Building  
P.O. Box 202165  
Harrisburg, PA 17120-2165

Dear Chairman Adolph:

I would like to provide some clarity to the members of the General Assembly and the public about the Governor's budget as it relates to DEP.

A hallmark of Governor Corbett's budget is responsibility. DEP is at the forefront of filling the essential function of government, protecting public safety and, in our case, protecting the environment. This is the second year in a row that the Governor has closed a huge budget deficit with no furloughs of DEP personnel.

DEP's current authorized complement is 2,770. Of this number, 2,600 positions are filled thus giving DEP a 94 percent filled complement. This is a larger percentage of actual filled positions in comparison to the previous Administration. DEP has an appropriate amount of staff to get the job done for the Commonwealth.

DEP has delivered more environmental protection services over the last year than the year before. For example, we conducted double the amount of oil and gas inspections. Also, we concluded some very significant oil and gas enforcement actions, including levying the largest penalty action in the history of the program.

To clarify another point, while it appears DEP's General Fund budget was cut by \$10.589M this does not mean the Department's programs were cut by the same amount. The figures in the Governor's Budget indicate spending authority for the Department, meaning the amount up to which programs are able to spend, not the actual expenditures in that area. A portion of this \$10M reduction results from the Department reducing its spending authority to better align spending authority with actual expenditures in those areas. The program areas in many cases will have expenditures on level with the previous fiscal year, but the authority has been reduced which gives the impression of a budget reduction when actually expenditures in many cases remain unchanged.

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I hope this information has been helpful. If you have any additional questions, please contact Tom Santanna, Director of Legislative Affairs, by e-mail at [tsantanna@pa.gov](mailto:tsantanna@pa.gov) or by telephone at 717.783.8303 or Jeffrey M. Logan, Executive Deputy Secretary for Administration and Management, by e-mail at [jlogan@pa.gov](mailto:jlogan@pa.gov) or by telephone at 717.787.7116.

Respectfully,



Michael L. Krancer  
Secretary