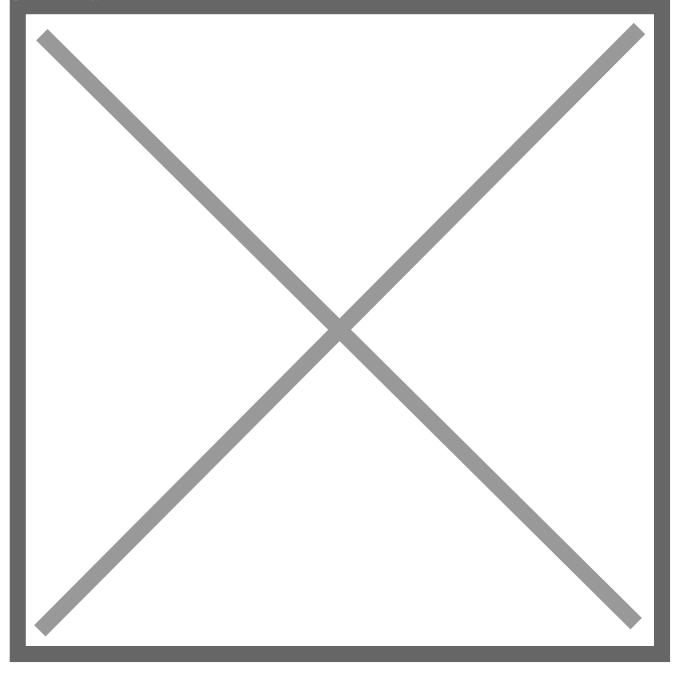


NEW YORK STATE SENATOR Kenneth P. LaValle

Senator Comments on Letter From Li Regional State Parks Commission

KENNETH P. LAVALLE March 18, 2010

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"The possible closing of New York State Parks is the wrong strategy at the wrong time. We are struggling through tough economic times and our local parks are often the only affordable getaway for many residents.

"Recently, I joined my Senate Republican colleagues from Long Island in writing to the Governor objecting to the closure of six Long Island state parks. I also called for an in depth analysis of the Parks Department's budget.

"Since that time, I have received a letter from the Long Island Regional Parks Commission (attached) agreeing that it would be a 'serious mistake to close parks.' The Commissioners are supportive of our efforts to keep the parks open and stated that the 'net financial benefit plan is unrealistic and unfair.'

"I am pleased that the Long Island Parks Commissioners has taken this position and look forward to a resolution that will serve to benefit the people of our region."