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THE SENATE
STATE OF NEW YORK



JAMES L. SEWARD
SENATOR, 51ST DISTRICT

July 19, 2010

Commissioner Alexander B. Grannis
Department of Environmental Conservation
625 Broadway
14th Floor
Albany, N.Y. 12233

RE: "Devil's Kitchen" Hiking Area
Platte Cove Road, Town of Hunter
Greene County

Dear Commissioner Grannis:

I am writing to ask that the Department of Environmental Conservation review the Devil's Kitchen hiking area to assess its safety, and in particular whether signs provide a sufficient level of warning to hikers who utilize the trail.

As you may know, two fatal hiking accidents occurred at Devil's Kitchen this year. Mr. William Costello of Delmar fell to his death on May 1st and 17 year old Olivia Rose Belfiglio died on June 4, 2010, when she fell from the steep terrain. In a news article, one of the DEC's rangers was quoted as saying that it's "not an area that's conducive to hiking." He also stated that the trails are not marked in the area.

Given this year's two fatalities, I would think it absolutely necessary that the department review the area, safety warnings, trail markers and signs, and evaluate what kinds of safety steps might be taken to mitigate the chance of another fatal accident at the site.

I would be happy to join you in a visit to the site, and would welcome your department's assistance.

With best wishes, I remain

Sincerely yours,

JAMES L. SEWARD
State Senator