

Members of the Senate Committee on Agricultural and National Resources,

My name is Linda Allen. I am the KAMP Dovetail Director. For the past 43 years Rocky Fork Lake State Park has been the home for Kamp Dovetail. KAMP Dovetail is a week long summer camp for special needs young people. Over 300 handicapped children and 400 volunteers attend our camp. During our week of camp we occupy a big part of the park. We have seen many improvements that have been made to make Rocky Fork Lake State Park more handicapped accessible not just for our week but for everyone who visits.

We fear that the cuts to the Division's funding from oil and gas leasing bonus payments will make it difficult for the park to ensure groups like ours a safe and enjoyable week of camp. Rocky Fork Lake State Park is 75 years old. Each year improvements have to be made to maintain the campgrounds. Things like hot water heaters, mowing equipment, paint, vehicles and many other costly items.

The Division of Parks needs the funding in their budget to assist with funding the division's operations. Cuts mean less employees. Less people to take care of the mowing and weed eating and the important jobs to maintain a beautiful state park. Not to mention keeping our lake clean from lily pads and other debris. It takes equipment and staff to clear all the swimming area of goose feces and trash daily. Budget cuts mean less security. There will be fewer law enforcement officers to patrol. This is not adequate security. This is a big issue for our group. Parents want to make sure that their children are safe and protected while camping at Rocky Fork Lake. When you only have funds for 2 law enforcement officers this is a problem. Rocky Fork will not be able to employee enough staff to maintain a safe and beautiful park.

KAMP Dovetail has a partnership with Rocky Fork Lake State Park. Our families and handicapped children (who come from all over Ohio, Kentucky and Indiana have enjoyed the past 43 years camping at Rocky Fork Lake. We together have made improvements for the special needs children. The Park Managers have always supported our mission of serving handicapped children. They have helped our children make memories that will last a lifetime.

I hope you will reconsider the cuts to the Division's funding from oil and gas leasing bonus payments for our State Parks.

Sincerely,

Linda Allen

SATH (Supplementary Assistance to the Handicap) Executive Director
KAMP Dovetail Director