

April 2007

Carol Ash, Commissioner  
New York State Office of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation  
Empire State Plaza, Agency Building 1  
Albany , NY 12238

Dear Ms. Ash:

In recent years the Office of Parks, Recreation, and Historic Preservation has made great progress in assuring access of surfers to several New York State Parks including those at Jones Beach, Camp Hero and Robert Moses State Park on Fire Island. Providing access for surfers to those parks has enabled many more residents and visitors to enjoy our wonderful state parks on Long Island. However, one important state park on Long Island remains closed to surfers, Montauk Point State Park.

The waves at Montauk Point represent an unusual asset because they are only surfable on rare occasions when the wind and ocean swells cooperate. In fact, when the waves on the north side of the Point are surfable, the waves on all other Long Island beaches are too big or disorganized to surf.

As you know, surfing has grown tremendously in popularity over the past decades, and it has become a major element of the economy on Long Island. Surfers now come in all shapes and sizes; girls, women, boys and men, from ages 10 to 75. There are now many surf shops and surfboard manufacturers on Long Island. Surfers, and their families who travel to the East end of Long Island help to fuel our tourist industry by supporting local motels, restaurants, and shops.. In fact, when "the surf is up" on Long Island, surfers represent one of the largest user groups on our East end beaches.

In light of the substantial popularity of surfing on Long Island and elsewhere, I urge you to support the efforts of Surfrider Foundation by creating access for surfers to the waves in Montauk Point State Park. Surfers are an environmentally responsible group who have been patiently looking forward to peacefully sharing this valuable shoreline with the current user groups. The previous administration's support for surfing access at other state parks was critical. I hope that you will continue their efforts by creating a policy which enables surfers to enjoy the waves and beaches at Montauk Point State Park.

Sincerely,

cc: Fred Thiele, Jr.  
Kenneth LaValle  
George Gorman  
Thomas Dess