

October 2006

Ms. Bernadette Castro, Commissioner
New York State Office of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation
Empire State Plaza
Agency Building 1
Albany NY, 12238

Dear Ms. Castro:

In recent years, you have played a central role in assuring access for surfers to several New York State Parks including those at Jones Beach, Fire Island, Camp Hero, and Robert Moses State Park. Providing access for surfers to those parks has enabled many more residents & 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 the Montauk Point represent an unusual asset because they are only surfable on rare occasions when the wind & ocean swell 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 and disorganized to surf.

As you know, surfing has grown tremendously in popularity over the past decade, and it has become a major element of the economy on Long Island. There are now many surf shops and surfboard manufactures on Long Island. Surfers who travel to the East End of Long Island help to fuel our tourist industry by supporting local motels, restaurants, shops, etc. 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 to expand access for surfers to the Montauk Point State Park. Your support for surfing access at other state parks was critical and I hope that you will complete the job of enabling surfers to enjoy New York State Parks by providing access for surfers at Montauk Point.

Sincerely,

Cc Mr. Kenneth LaValle
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Mr. George Gorman

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