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Senate of Pennsylvania

October 31, 1997

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Bureau of Forestry
Div. of State Forest Mgt.

Warren A. Ely, Chief
Division of State Forest Management
Department of Conservation and Natural Resources
Post Office Box 8552
Harrisburg, Pennsylvania 17105-8552

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Dear Mr. Ely:

Thank you for your October 17, 1997, letter concerning the proposed rulemaking to revise the State Forest Rules and Regulations. I appreciate your taking time to further clarify the issues that I addressed in my letter of October 14, 1997. I wish to comment further on one remaining point with which I strongly disagree and which I urge you to remove from the final rulemaking process, **Section 21.61 Camping Permit.**

While I understand your concern for those unwise campers who might leave home without notifying their families of their intended whereabouts, the state cannot become everyone's keeper. I find it unreasonable to limit the free access of our state forests because of this limited number of individuals. The issuing of a permit will not stop the phone calls into your district offices when a camper is late in returning from a camping trip.

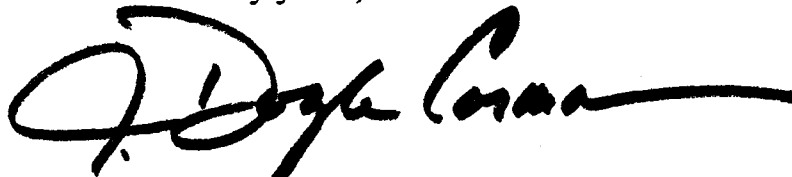
Your response also alarmed me further when you say in the future the Department may be forced to "control the numbers". God forbid! However, I do appreciate that there are locations, mainly near the larger population centers, where concentrated use could be a future problem, just as it is today in some of our state parks on given holiday weekends. **I do not agree that we need such restrictive regulation language today or in the near future.** Should the problem occur in the future, could we not utilize your new "800" telephone system to control such areas?

Warren A. Ely
October 31, 1997
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Before any permit process for our state forest use is ever implemented, I would urge you to provide access to every Pennsylvania citizen via a free telephone system. There should be no inconvenience attached to accessing our state's forests. Given time for the Department to work out the new "800" park reservation process, I am confident that you will be able to design it for state forest access, **if and when that becomes necessary.**

Again, thank you for the opportunity to review and comment on your efforts. I want you to know that I do appreciate your efforts and those of all who were involved in this updating process.

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "J. Doyle Corman". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke at the end.

J. DOYLE CORMAN

JDC/jre

Copy: The Honorable Roger A. Madigan
The Honorable John C. Oliver
John Plonski, Executive Deputy Secretary
Joe Graci, Legislative Liaison