

**From:** Christopher Callahan <ccallaha@gdeb.com>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, February 20, 2013 8:44 AM  
**To:** AppropriationTestimony  
**Subject:** Conservation & Development Appropriations Subcommittee Public Hearing on 2/20/13

**Dear Conservation & Development Appropriations Subcommittee Members,**

**Did You Know that a 2011 Economic Study by UCONN documented an annual contribution of over \$1 BILLION dollars and 9,000 private sector jobs to Connecticut from it's State Parks ??**

**Did You Know that for every \$1 Dollar spent on Connecticut's State Parks \$38 dollars is returned to the State's Coffers??**

**Did You Know that Connecticut's State Parks provide affordable venues for outdoor activities that are fundamental for healthy lifestyles and reducing child obesity??**

**Did You Know that approximately 8 million people visit Connecticut's State Parks each year and is perhaps the most dominant member of Connecticut's tourism network??**

**The Governor's proposed budget would cut funding necessary to hire seasonal workers who are critical to keep Connecticut's State Parks buildings & grounds safe for it's visitors.**

**We urge the Committee NOT to allow this or any funding to be cut from the budget for Connecticut's State Parks & Forests !!!**

**Sincerely,**

**Chris Callahan**

**President, Friends of Harkness Memorial State Park  
Waterford, CT**