

David A. Paterson, Governor  
State of New York  
State Capitol  
Albany, NY 12224  
(518) 474-8390

Dear Governor Paterson,

I am writing to urge you to reconsider closing the Reynolds Game Farm, located on Game Farm Road in Dryden NY. This program has been in operation since 1926 and releases about 27,000 pheasants to public lands open for hunting; it is the last DEC pheasant-breeding farm in New York State.

The funding that supports this program comes directly from taxes and fees paid by New York State sportsmen and women for the expressed purpose of funding such programs; the use of these funds for other purposes is a deliberate misallocation of such funds, and a violation of the commitment that our state has made with its sportsmen and women.

Although I recognize the economic burden our state has in fulfilling its 2009 budgetary shortfall, reallocating the program's \$750,000 annual operating budget to balance this shortfall will have virtually no impact; indeed, comparing this program's annual budget relative to the state's budget deficit is the very definition of insignificant.

Additionally, the loss of the pheasant-restocking program will have a negative economic impact on local commerce in areas where pheasant hunting is rich. Businesses that profit from this sporting activity will be affected such as: sporting supply sales, restaurant, hotel, gasoline sales and other incidental consumption. Such economic loss will be reflected in local tax receipts.

I respectfully request that you also consider that the loss of this program will limit the available game for sport (including hunting, photography, and general birding) and eventually eliminate activities that are a well-appreciated part of New York State's outdoor sporting heritage. Although this loss cannot be measured financially, its loss to quality of life in our region is significant.

Therefore, I urge you to keep your commitment to New York State's sportsmen and women and allocate outdoor sporting taxes and fees to their appropriate programs, among them the pheasant-stocking program at Reynolds farm. The sportsmen and women of our state are a significant voting block and desire a receptive relationship with the stewards of our state; please do not let us down.

A concerned New York State citizen,  
Member, Shooter's Committee on Political Education (SCOPE inc.)