



PA Conservation Police Officers Lodge  
509 N. Second St.  
Harrisburg, PA 17101

For Immediate Release

HARRISBURG (Nov.xx, 2009) – To the Editor,

Last year alone, nearly 95,000 anglers bought licenses to fish for steelhead in Lake Erie and its tributaries. Three Waterways Conservation Police Officers are charged each year with protecting these anglers, our waterways, and many miles of private and public-access lands. The goal of these officers is to protect the resource, landowners and ensure a successful and safe steelhead season for all anglers. But even with the assistance of officers brought in from other areas to assist during steelhead season, there are still not enough officers to protect the resource and landowners – not even if they all worked 24/7.

In August, Gov. Rendell signed into law legislation that will use money collected from Lake Erie fishing permits to purchase easements in order to allow more land access to steelhead fishing. Plans are in the works to acquire an additional 3-¾ miles of public-access lands. The demands on these officers are increasing with each land easement purchase.

As part of the agreements landowners make with the Fish and Boat Commission, they are reassured that Waterways Conservation Police Officers will protect their lands from misuse. Without this reassurance, many landowners wouldn't give the public access to their properties. The risks are just too great.

And still, just three Waterways Conservation Police Officers are charged with making sure anglers have a quality recreational experience, poachers are apprehended, and our fishing access is protected. There is legislation before the state House, HB 1398 & HB1513, that could help recruit and retain Waterways Conservation Police Officers as well as ensure that they have the same benefits as other police officers employed by the Commonwealth. The time is now to take action so that we do not have another steelhead season go by with three officers protecting us and our resources.

Sincerely,

Frank Dooley

President of the Pennsylvania Conservation Police Officers' Lodge 114 of the Fraternal Order of Police  
*About PCPOL*

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Sincerely,

Frank Dooley

President of the Pennsylvania Conservation Police Officers' Lodge 114 of the Fraternal Order of Police

The Pennsylvania Conservation Police Officers Lodge is comprised of Wildlife Conservation Officers employed by the Pennsylvania Game Commission (PGC) and Waterways Conservation Officers employed by the Pennsylvania Fish & Boat Commission (PFBC). The 280 officers are members of FOP Lodge #114, one of the largest state lodges in Pennsylvania.

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