



PEF/encon

October 19, 2005

Acting Commissioner Denise Sheehan
NYS Department of Environmental Conservation
625 Broadway
Albany, NY 12233

Dear Acting Commissioner Sheehan:

It is now twenty-seven years* since the Governor's Executive Order 68 was signed encouraging state agencies to implement alternative work schedules that include staggered hours, flextime and compressed work weeks. It is also thirty-three months since the Joint Labor Management Pollution and Energy Reduction Committee forwarded to Executive Office staff the recommendation to expand the compressed work schedule as a permanent offering in the Central Office. This recommendation was a result of the very successfully completed 2002 Pilot Program (see attached memo from Joe Lattanzio to Jim Tuffey) that was in the same spirit as the mid-90's successful telecommuting pilot programs in Air Resources and Region 3, and, an earlier compressed work week program started in Regions 2 and 9 under Commissioner Hank Williams.

Indecision on this January 30, 2003 recommendation has been extraordinary! We find it hard to fathom how an agency charged with conservation, reducing air pollution and energy usage can not act on expanding a program that achieves all 3 goals and saves employee expenditures on dramatically higher gasoline prices. These are dollars that could be more productively spent elsewhere in the NYS economy.

The soon-to-be released new ozone standards and the recently announced Greenhouse Gas Reduction Initiatives would seem to demand action in the areas the Joint Committee and PEF/encon have long recommended. Even President Bush recently issued a memorandum to federal departments and agencies directing them to conserve natural gas, electricity, gasoline, and diesel fuel to the maximum extent possible, consistent with the effective discharge of the federal government's duties. In particular, federal agencies are being asked to temporarily curtail non-essential travel and other activities that use gasoline or diesel fuel **and to encourage their employees to car pool, telecommute, and use public transportation.** The memo calls for federal agencies to report on their fuel conservation efforts within 30 days.

We are asking you to accept the PERC Committee's January 30, 2003 recommendation to expand the program in the central office. We are also asking you to begin offering this and other energy savings and air pollution reduction options addressed in Executive Order 68 to all central and regional office employees.

DEC should be a role model for the private sector and NYS state agencies and practice what it advocates for the general public. We close by asking for your leadership in implementing these environmentally friendly and energy conserving programs at DEC.

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Wayne Bayer".

Wayne R. Bayer
PEF Executive Board Representative
On Behalf of the PEF/encon Albany Steward Council

cc J McKeon
J Lattanzio
PEF/Encon Steward Council

Enclosure

* Originally issued in 1978 and reissued in 1985