



Conservation Alliance of New York

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Cooperatively Sponsored Injunction Has Results

The recently co-sponsored Conservation Alliance of New York (CANY) and New York Rifle & Pistol Association (NYSRPA) injunction against New York Governor David Paterson and the New York DEC Commissioner Alexander “Pete” Grannis was filed in the court of Judge Devine to prevent a) uncompensated removal of pheasants on the Reynolds Game Farm adjacent to the Cornell University Campus and b) sale of Reynolds Game Farm. *“Judge Devine issued a temporary restraining order served on the Commissioner and the Governor. Governor Paterson and Commissioner Grannis immediately suspended plans to be submitted for execution that day,”* **CANY President Gene Molyneaux** reported.

Reynolds Game Farm and the pheasants raised there are a product of Conservation Fund monies held within DEC accounts and overseen by the Conservation Fund Advisory Board (CFAB). Those dollars should be provided from two sources: license fees paid by sportsmen and women, and the proceeds of Pitman-Robertson Act funds redistributed to the states from excise fees paid by sportsmen and women during the purchase of sporting equipment. President Molyneaux said, *“No General Fund dollars need to be used to fund Reynolds Game Farm,”* but the original plan to sell or kill and redistribute the birds and to close Reynolds had been claimed by the state to be a way to save \$750,000 in General Funds money. *“The deputy director for the environment chose to destroy Fish and Wildlife assets without remunerating the Conservation Fund, and to do so without review by the Conservation Fund Advisory Board, as required by law.”* said Molyneaux.

Since then, the Governor and Commissioner have responded to the complaint, requesting additional time – until April 3, to develop possible options to fund the farm to keep it in operation. Molyneaux added, *“The CANY Board of Directors thinks this is a false premise that General Fund dollars fund the Reynolds operations, but agreed to the schedule of review, which extends the period that saves the lives of Reynolds-raised pheasants and the game farm.”* The Governor and Commissioner have stated that, at the end of this period, the question of the injunction will be revisited.

Molyneaux said, *“The alarm has been sounded for CFAB: empowered by law to command DEC to promptly produce facts, figures, and plans affecting the Fish and Wildlife Division, the ability of CFAB to fulfill its duty under law is eroded in fact if not in letter by not firmly exercising their legal and fiduciary responsibility to the Conservation Fund and to licensees.”*

Moreover, the ongoing collaborative effort by CANY and NYSRPA on behalf of sportsman issues demonstrates that sportsmen and women with different interests are committed to supporting each other across philosophical divides. Molyneaux concluded, *“If sportsmen and women like what they see CANY is doing for sportsmen, I ask them to become a member ~ to donate to ongoing efforts on their behalf.”* See CANY newsletters, contact information, and earlier press releases at www.canyus.org.