



April 8, 2009

Mr. Joseph Graffagnino  
Brooklyn Aquarium Society  
P.O. Box 290610  
Brooklyn, NY 11229-0011

Dear Mr. Graffagnino,

On behalf of the Wildlife Conservation Society (WCS) we thank you for writing a letter of requesting that Albany restore funding for the **Zoos, Botanical Gardens, and Aquariums (ZBGA) program**. This is a tremendous victory for the Bronx Zoo, New York Aquarium, and 74 other living museums and with your help, Albany has finally recognized the importance of New York State living institutions by choosing to restore the proposed 55% cut for 2009 as well as complete restoration of funding for 2010.

During the **Save ZBGA Campaign**, the Bronx Zoo and New York Aquarium, collected and sent over 83,000 messages to Albany by way of written petitions, email messages and drawings and letters from school children. Community Groups from all five boroughs, Westchester, New Jersey, and Connecticut sent support letters to Governor Paterson amounting to 105 letters. It is tremendous to witness firsthand what grassroots advocacy can accomplish. For more than 113 years, the Bronx Zoo and New York Aquarium have offered an education experience and access to wildlife from around the world to millions of New Yorkers and tourists. ZBGA funding is a 30-year-old funding program within the Environmental Protection Fund (EPF) that has helped to educate current and future generations of environmental stewards.

Thank you again for your ongoing support.

Sincerely,

Handwritten signature of Janet M. Torres in black ink.

**Janet Torres**  
Director  
Government and Community Affairs

Handwritten signature of Rosemary DeLuca in black ink.

**Rosemary DeLuca**  
Assistant Director  
City and State Affairs