

# POLICE BENEVOLENT ASSOCIATION

of the NEW YORK STATE TROOPERS, INC.



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## Remarks by NY State Troopers PBA President Thomas H. Mungeer on January 30, 2012 regarding the 2012-2013 Executive Budget

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Members of the Legislature, thank you for allotting me time to present important information on behalf of all New York State Troopers as well as the citizens of this state.

My name is Thomas Mungeer, and I am honored to represent 6,000 active and retired Troopers and State Police Supervisors in my position as President of the New York State Troopers PBA, the labor union representing those dedicated public servants.

This is my third year addressing all of you, and this is the third year the PBA has taken a strong stance in advocating for more Troopers to be added to the New York State Police. We are referring to manpower levels of sworn members, the men and women who wear the gray uniform, patrol our highways, and respond to emergencies. Simply stated, if the number of Troopers continues to decrease, there will be serious public safety issues.

We are thankful that Governor Andrew Cuomo has allocated for 230 new recruit Troopers in the proposed 2012 – 2013 Executive Budget. The Governor has acknowledged that since the last Academy class in 2008, the State Police is down by 481 members through attrition. When comparing the two numbers – the addition of 230 Troopers versus the loss of 481 Troopers – you can see the proposal to add new recruit Troopers will just begin to bring our manpower levels back up. We are at a tipping point with attrition levels, and it is imperative that these new recruit Troopers remain in the budget.

Fewer Troopers on the road will endanger not only the public, but also the brave and dedicated Troopers who put their lives on the line each and every day. Being a New York State Trooper is a difficult and dangerous job – since 2008, four members have been killed in the line of duty. That being said, with fewer Troopers patrolling larger areas without adequate backup it is imperative that we equip them with the proper tools to carry out their jobs and return safely to their families at the end of their shifts. Two items that can help are patrol rifles and Tasers. Having enough rifles to supply every patrol vehicle would ensure that our road Troopers would have a fighting chance against a heavily armed adversary in

the future. With the ever-evolving criminal element, it is of the utmost importance that our Troopers are equipped with the latest tools of the trade, including Tasers, to protect the citizens of New York State and themselves.

The reason we became New York State Troopers in the first place was because we care about the safety of you, your friends and family, and the communities across the state. That's why I must speak out about the consequences of not having adequate manpower and proper equipment for sworn members of the New York State Police to properly do their jobs. You must ask yourselves: what price am I willing to pay for the safety of my constituents?

Thank you for your time and consideration.