

THE PROBLEM

In 2011, the Department of Environmental Protection expanded and became the Department of Energy and Environmental Protection (DEEP). Its workload increased dramatically, and though DEEP initially received an increase in budget, funding has since fallen by 20% to \$163 million in FY 2019.

Further complicating this situation, DEEP staff capacity continues to decline. Over the last decade, staff has fallen by nearly 30%, and another 40% are expected to retire over the next four years.

DEEP faces growing responsibilities while also suffering cuts in budget, reduction in staff, and unfilled positions. This has created a crisis that is growing worse with every retirement, departure, and budget cut.

A COMPREHENSIVE SOLUTION

The first clear priority is to refill positions at DEEP with minimal lag time as critical professionals retire.

At the same time, DEEP must be creative and efficient in partnering with universities, nonprofits, and other private entities to stretch their capacity to meet the department's responsibilities. DEEP has already adopted LEAN principles, and it continues to emphasize efficiency in its operations.

Lawmakers must ensure that DEEP has the funding required to meet staffing needs, and ensure it can handle its responsibilities.

CONTACT

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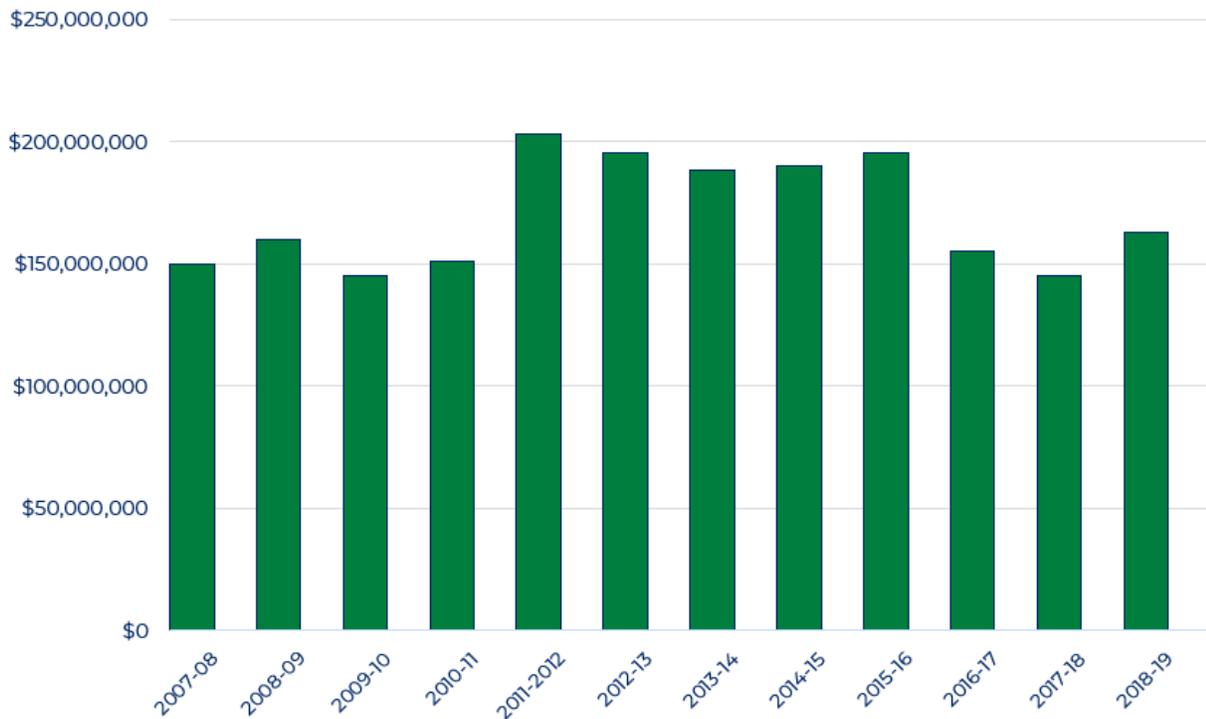
In order to preserve our parks, historical character, and way of life, we need to ensure that DEEP receives full funding.

FAST FACTS

- When DEP became DEEP, its budget increased to its peak of \$205 million, but since then has decreased by 20% to **\$163 million** in FY 2019.
- Over the past decade, DEEP staff capacity has decreased by **29%** overall while its responsibilities keep growing.
- In 2017, DEEP conducted over **3,400 inspections**, slightly above the five year average, and the workload is only increasing.



DEEP Funding



DEEP Staff Levels

