



**STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA
OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR
20301 MAIL SERVICE CENTER • RALEIGH, NC 27699-0301**

BEVERLY EAVES PERDUE
GOVERNOR

August 15, 2011

Mr. Lewis Ledford, Director
2388 State Highway 128
Burnsville, North Carolina 28714

Dear Mr. Ledford,

It has come to my attention that several members of your staff are to be commended for the efforts in rescuing Denise R. Hagan of Kentucky after a fall on Mount Mitchell. It is my understanding that on July 6, 2011, Jonathan Griffith, Vincent ZaGara, Larry Blevins, Matt O'Connell, Jack Bradley and Cheryl Waltz went above and beyond to assist Ms. Hagan. Their efforts on that day ensured her safe passage down the mountain and made a tremendous impression on her.

The State of North Carolina is eternally grateful for their professionalism and heroism. Their compassion made a frightening situation into a positive and memorable experience for Ms. Hagan. North Carolina is very proud to join Ms. Hagan in commending these fine employees on a job well done.

Best wishes for health and happiness.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Beverly Eaves Perdue".

Beverly Eaves Perdue

ABJ

cc: Denise R. Hagan

