

Times Union – Capitol Confidential Blog  
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BLOG ENTRY

## A beaver walks among us

April 7, 2010 at 4:29 pm by Bryan Fitzgerald

Lori Van Buren/Times Union

An oversized semi-aquatic nocturnal mammal made news at the Capitol today: Bucky the Beaver could be found all around the building this afternoon, quietly gnawing at lawmakers to reconsider proposed cuts to funding that benefits New York's wildlife.

The six-foot state mammal appeared at a press conference for the Better Budget Choice Campaign earlier in the afternoon, roamed the halls of the Legislative Office Building, dropped by the studio of Susan Arbetter's "Capitol Pressroom," and exchanged waves, head nods, high-fives and even a few fist bumps with members of the Assembly as they entered the chamber for their afternoon session.

Under Gov. David Paterson's proposed executive budget, the Environmental Protection Fund would be raided for the general fund, depleting it from around \$222 million to \$143 million this fiscal year.

"We're here to remind the Assembly of the importance of the EPF," said Scott Lorey, the legislative director of the Adirondack Council, who accompanied Bucky.

On several occasions, members of the legislature confused Bucky for a bear — albeit a bear with a pair of fist-sized incisors protruding from his upper lip.

Bucky declined repeated interview attempts and provided no more than a thumbs-down (do beavers have thumbs?) when asked about the prospective state of his Adirondack habitat.

Video at: <http://blog.timesunion.com/capitol/archives/24610/a-beaver-walks-among-us/#more-24610>



Dear NYS Legislature,  
It's about time someone gave  
a dam about New York's  
environment.

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we love  
new york

Payline for Environmental Protection Fund  
[www.KeepProtectingNY.org](http://www.KeepProtectingNY.org)