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STATE OF VERMONT
GENERAL ASSEMBLY
HOUSE COMMITTEE ON ENVIRONMENT
AND ENERGY

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REP. SETH BONGARTZ, RANKING MEMBER
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REP. BRIAN SMITH
REP. GABRIELLE STEBBINS
REP. DARA TORRE

January 27, 2023

Dear Committee on Appropriations,

Thank you for the opportunity to provide feedback with regards to the Budget Adjustment Act. The Committee on Environment and Energy is providing comments on the sections that we reviewed. We present our comments via four replies, as follows:

- With regards to the recommended change in B.1100(a)(28): \$30 Million in the General Fund, Department of Public Service state match for \$67 Million NTIA Broadband grant (“middle mile”)
 - The Committee recommends approving this change for the NTIA grant only. Further, the Committee requests a check back on the status of the grant application process.
- With regards to D.101(a)(8): DPS-VPM – Transfer \$2.1 Million from General Fund to 21555 Emergency Relief Assistance Fund; Transfer is to add the amount needed for state match for all known non-Covid FEMA disasters for the emergency relief assistance fund
 - The Committee supports this recommendation.
- With regards to E.233.2(a): Total of \$619,659 in Special Funds and Federal Funds – Act 185 Section E.233.1 (2022 – Required Submission of a FY2023 Proposed Budget as Part of the FY2023 Budget Adjustment Act. pp.156 of 236).
 - The Committee supports this recommendation to “true up” the Vermont Community Broad Band Board portion of the Vermont Universal Service Fund.
- With regards to the recommended transfer from D.101(a)(9): DEC Transfer from the General Fund to 21275 Environmental Contingency Fund; Transfers \$3 Million to the Environmental Contingency Fund (ECF) for the one-time PFAS remediation activities provided for in Section B.1101(a)(1)¹
 - The Committee supports this proposed change.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,

Chair Sheldon

More on other side

¹ Note that this is presented in the BAA via two line items. One is D.101(a)(9) and the other is B.1101(a)(1).

Additionally, the Committee on Environment and Energy worked with the Committee on Commerce and Economic Development to review “Section 16, 2022 Acts and Resolves No. 185, Sec. G.300(c)(2)”. This language allows for \$1 Million for the Regional Planning Commissions to provide assessments for the brownfields grant program and limits administrative costs to 5% of expenditures. Our shared comments are as follows:

- Regarding the \$1 Million award, both Committees support this.
- Regarding the notwithstanding language, the Committees want to ensure that these funds are awarded to multiple projects. Testimony was taken that funds are being awarded to different projects. Thus, the Committees are recommending to retain the notwithstanding language in the BAA; we will discuss the cap further during this Session.
- Regarding the definition of “parcel” versus “site”, we are recommending that this be clarified during this legislative session, but are not recommending to make a change within the BAA.
- Finally, regarding the 5% allocation for administration, both Committees recommend raising this to 10%.

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact us.

Sincerely,

Chair Sheldon

Chair Marcotte