

Erin Viera

From: Sydonia Axis Lary
Sent: Thursday, January 18, 2024 1:18 PM
To: Erin Viera
Cc: David Durfee
Subject: BBA recommendation to Appropriations
Attachments: GENERAL-#373741-v1-Logging Contractor Assistanc Program Proposal.DOCX

Dear Chair Lanpher,

The House Committee on Agriculture, Food Resiliency, and Forestry recommends the following for purposes of the 2024 Budget Adjustment Act:

- Support the request to give AAFM the authority to implement the Clean Water board's recommendations to allocate \$6M in ARPA funds.
- Appropriate an additional \$252,203 to the Agency of Agriculture, Food and Markets for the purposes of fully funding grants to all eligible organic farmers who applied to the Organic Dairy Farm Assistance Program established under 2023 Acts and Resolves No. 78, Sec. C.117. Act No. 78, Sec. B.1101(g)(3) appropriated \$6.9 million for the purposes of the Organic Dairy Farm Assistance Program. Although very close to being the exact amount needed to provide grants to all 129 organic farmers in need, several eligible farms who applied for assistance did not receive grants because the appropriated funds had been expended in full when it came time to award grants to these farms. Appropriating the additional \$253,000 will allow for the award to all of the organic dairy farms that were eligible for assistance when they applied, as the General Assembly intended.
- Support the request by the Vermont Food Bank for \$2M additional funding in fiscal year 2024 to address food insecurity needs in the State. The Committee will be visiting the Food Bank's distribution center in Barre on Thursday to get a tour of their facilities.
- Establish the Logging Contractor Assistance Program as proposed in the attached document.

David

David Durfee

State Representative, Bennington-3

Shaftsbury, Sunderland, Glastenbury

Chair, House Committee on Agriculture, Food Resiliency and Forestry