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MEMORANDUM

To: Rep. Johnson, Chair, House Committee on Appropriations

From: Rep. Partridge, Chair, House Committee on Agriculture & Forest Products

Date: March 11, 2015

Subject: response to Memorandum of February 12, 2015

Having reviewed the Provisions related to Agriculture in the Governor's Proposed FY 2016 Budget, the House Committee on Agriculture & Forest Products recommends the following changes:

Sec.E.100, Explanation: in line 2 of the Explanation delete "Franklin County" and substitute for that "Lake Champlain Watersheds".

Sec.E.224(a): in line 3, insert before "direct grants" the phrase "administrative expenses and".

Sec.E.224 Explanation: Delete original explanation and substitute new language: "The appropriation for the Working Lands Program is reduced with grant making focused to provide technical assistance which includes business, marketing, and transition planning, and access to capital; and matching funds for small and emerging agricultural, forestry and forest products enterprises.

Sec.E.225.3: Delete in the second to last line "established and"

Note at end of memo: The funding for the State Stipend was \$175,000 in 2014; \$160,312 in 2015 and then reduced to \$95,200 after the first FY 15 rescission. The amount listed in the memo, \$125,000, doesn't refer to anything connected with the State Stipend, for which the Governor's proposal would eliminate funding.