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MEMORANDUM

To: Rep. Bill Botzow, Chair, House Committee on Commerce and Economic Development

From: Rep. Janet Ancel, Chair, House Committee on Ways and Means
Rep. Carolyn Branagan, Vice-Chair, House Committee on Ways and Means

Date: January 16, 2014

Subject: Review of Administration's Proposed FY 2015 Fee Bill

The House Ways and Means Committee has begun work on the Administration's proposed FY 2015 Fee Bill and would like the input of the Committee on Commerce and Economic Development on Sections 5 and 9 of the draft bill. Section 5 pertains to a fee falling within the jurisdiction of the Department of Tourism and Marketing. The requestor's explanation for the new fee is to offset the administration and promotion costs associated with the Market Vermont Logo program. Section 9 pertains to the workers' compensation rate of contribution, a determination falling within the jurisdiction of the Department of Labor. The rate of contribution provision is kept the same as fiscal year 2014 per 2013 Act 72 Sec. 30.

It would be helpful if you would review this section and respond with your recommendations by the end of the day on Wednesday, January 22nd. Thank you in advance for your consideration.

* * * Department of Tourism and Marketing * * *

Sec. 5. 3 V.S.A. § 2504 is amended to read:

§ 2504. MARKET VERMONT LOGO

(a) The Secretary of ~~the~~ Agriculture, Food and Markets and the Secretary of ~~the~~ Commerce and Community Development shall develop categories and standards designed to identify those Vermont goods, services, and experiences which best portray and promote Vermont's reputation for high standards of quality.

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(e) ~~[Deleted.]~~ [Repealed.]

(f) The Secretary of Commerce and Community Development may require transactional charges, commissions, or other fees, which are based upon the actual costs to the agencies, to be paid by persons participating in the program, and to be applied toward administration and promotion of the program.

* * * Department of Labor * * *

* * * Workers' Compensation Fund * * *

Sec. 9. WORKERS' COMPENSATION RATE OF CONTRIBUTION

For fiscal year 2015, after consideration of the formula in 21 V.S.A. § 711(b) and historical rate trends, the General Assembly has established that the rate of contribution for the direct calendar year premium for workers' compensation insurance shall remain at the rate of 1.45 percent established in 2013 Acts and Resolves No. 72, Sec. 29, notwithstanding 21 V.S.A. § 711(a).