



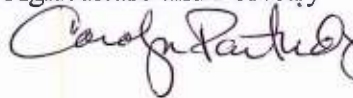
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MEMORANDUM

To: Rep. Kitty Toll, Chair, House Committee on Appropriations

From: Representative Carolyn Partridge, Committee on Agriculture and Forestry

Date: March 1, 2017 

Subject: Comments on Provisions in the Governor's Proposed FY 2018 State Budget

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the provisions on the Governor's Proposed FY 2018 State Budget.

We are in agreement with the Provisions in Sec. D.101, Sec. E.100, and Sec. E.224

We understand the extreme tightness of the FY 2018 budget and appreciate your efforts to produce a balanced budget. Having said that, we would request that if by some miracle there are some one-time funds, you consider applying them to the Working Lands Enterprise Initiative, the Farm to School Program, and the Agricultural Fairs, Field Days, and Festivals stipend grants. All of the programs are economic development successes with good return on investment in terms of economic output. The Farm to School Program also improves our children's nutrition, diets, and ultimate health.

One possible reduction in the AAFM General Fund budget would be a \$30,000 decrease in the Agriculture Development "temporary employee" line, replacing it with Special Funds (Fund 21671). This represents part of the funding for their temporary employee for Section 248 – replacing with special funds money still allows them to bill back for services and should have little or no impact on the program. The replacement of General Fund Money with Special Funds is a critical piece of the General Fund reduction.