RETIREMENT DIVISION TEL: (802) 828-2305

TO: Senator Andrew Perchlik, Chair, Senate Committee on Appropriations

Representative Robin Scheu, Chair, House Committee on Appropriations

FROM: Mike Pieciak, State Treasurer

DATE: February 21, 2025

RE: FY 2026 Budget Request Addendum: Climate Superfund

On January 15, 2025, my office, in collaboration with the Secretary of the Agency of Natural Resources, submitted a <u>feasibility report</u> on the Act 122 Climate Superfund Cost Recovery Program to the General Assembly. The report concluded that both additional time and resources are necessary to successfully complete this work. That conclusion is based on our efforts to date, including our close review of responses to ANR's July 2024 Request for Information.

In total, we estimate that the Treasurer's Office needs a one-time appropriation of \$700,000 for contracted support, as well as \$125,000 in a base funding increase to support one limited-service FTE. The contracted support is needed in order to ensure the firmest possible scientific basis for any eventual cost-recovery demands.

We originally requested some of these resources in the Budget Adjustment Act (H.141) so as to effectuate this work sooner and comply with the statutory timelines. However, it does not appear at this time that our request will be included in H.141.

The resources are still necessary based on the scope of the Act and the extent of the technical work needed to assess costs. Therefore, we are now requesting the full amount needed of \$700,000 one-time funds and one limited-service FTE at \$125,000 per year (estimated salaries and benefits), for likely two to three years, dependent on pace and scope of contracted support. This amounts to \$825,000 total for the FY26 budget.

Thank you for your consideration of this request. Please do not hesitate to contact my office should you have any questions or require any additional information or supportive materials.