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STATE OF VERMONT
SENATE
SENATE COMMITTEE ON NATURAL
RESOURCES AND ENERGY

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MEMORANDUM

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

From: Senator Anne Watson, Chair, Senate Committee on Natural Resources and Energy

Date: April 15, 2025

Subject: Fiscal Year 2026 Budget Recommendations

The Senate Committee on Natural Resources and Energy has reviewed the proposed Fiscal Year 2026 Budget and supports the following proposals and recommendations:

Organization	Requested Amount	Explanation
SNRE for S.29	\$400,000 in base	Sec. 5 of S.29 contained a \$250,000 appropriation for the Agency of Natural Resources to be used for a third-party vendor administer the Chloride Contamination Reduction Program, as well as \$150,000 for a permanent classified position at ANR to administer the Chloride Contamination Reduction Program.
Treasurer's Office	\$625,000 in one-time money	\$500,000 for consultants to do modeling for the damages assessment, plus \$125,000 for one limited-service position with the Treasure
Land Use Review Board	\$72,500 added to base \$172,500 in one-time money	Two positions for half a year – one in base and one as a limited-service position, totaling \$145,000. Additionally, \$100,000 for digital infrastructure for them to be able to accept Tier 1 applications from RPCs.
Conservation Districts	\$612,000 increase in base over House Rec	This would double their base as recommended by the House, bringing them to a total of \$1,224,000 in base funding. This would give them a 0.5 FTE position to each of the 14 conservation districts.

Serve Learn Earn	\$250,000 increase to base	This would bring their base to \$750,000 total.
Agency of Natural Resources	\$300,000 increase to base	Two positions in Fish and Wildlife for implementation of Act 181
Agency of Natural Resources	\$4,000,000 increase over the House's Rec	Restore the Governor's recommended spending levels (to \$9.52M) for PCB remediation and follow-up testing in schools.
Agency of Natural Resources	\$175,000 increase to base	This would provide an attorney position to ANR, which is particularly helpful as they defend Vermont's climate laws

Total: \$6,607,000

Additionally, we request that the deadline for the expenditure or encumbrance of ARPA dollars as found in Sec.E.100.3 be extended from July 1st, 2027 to December 31st, 2027.