

MEMORANDUM

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

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

Date: April X, 2026

Subject: Fiscal Year 2027 Budget Recommendations

The Senate Committee on Natural Resources and Energy has reviewed the proposed Fiscal Year 2027 Budget and supports the following proposals and recommendations. We have not yet completed testimony on the House bills, which include H.718, H.740, and H.778, though the money for H.778 is in the House version of the budget.

Organization/Bill	Request	Explanation
SENATE BILLS		
S.218 Salt	\$200,000	To contract with a 3rd party entity to stand up the program
S.219 Energy Navigators	\$35,000	\$25,000 to the Department of Public Service and \$10,000 to the Climate Economy Action Center to collaborate with DPS on the study
S.223 Lake Study	\$14,000	Per diems for legislative members of the working group
S.325 Act 181 Updates	\$300,000	\$100,000 for the LURB to do outreach and engagement \$200,000 for ACCD to produce more blueprints for 802 Homes
S.60 Farm Security Fund	\$1,000,000	To get this program off the ground, Senate Ag committee alignment
IN THE HOUSE VERSION TO SOME DEGREE		
H.778 Dam Safety Bill	\$375,000	\$250,000 for Division of Emergency Management to develop EOPs \$125,000 for DEC assistance in completing EOP pilot project
VHCB	\$37.6M	From the Property Transfer Tax, full statutory allocation (Anticipating that

		there will be a separate additional \$2.8M in the Capitol Bill)
DEC Rivers Program	\$300,000	DEC positions for Rivers Program (in the House version)
Serve Learn Earn	Move the \$300,000 in one-time funding to base funding	\$500,000 is already base Currently \$300,000 is in one-time
VT Association of Conservation Districts	\$912,000	Increases in healthcare costs; \$612,000 in base, plus \$300,000 in one-time money, it's in the House's version
Working Lands Enterprise Funds	\$1,500,000	This is an additional \$500,000 relative to their \$1M base funding as recommended by the Governor
VT Rural Technical Assistance	\$500,000	This is up from \$250k in the house's version. This would go to towns, some is for staffing.
NOT IN THE HOUSE VERSION		
SLoCAMP	\$750,000	Extends a very successful pilot program that educates and funds acceptable management practices in logging to maintain clean water in, in high demand
ANR	\$125,000	3rd party consultants for CAFO inspections; Having Appropriations take more testimony on this would be helpful; Sen. Ag may have some recommendations on this as well