

MINUTES

Joint Fiscal Committee Meeting of November 27, 2006

Chairperson Martha Heath called the meeting of the Joint Fiscal Committee to order at 2:05 p.m. in Room 11, State House.

Also present: Representatives Obuchowski, Perry and Severance
Senators Bartlett, Cummings, Sears and Snelling

DAIRY ASSISTANCE:

The sole purpose of the brief meeting was to consider the following proposed action submitted by Representative Perry, for distribution to the Governor, the Secretaries of Administration and Agriculture, and the Chairs of the Senate and House Agriculture Committees:

Regarding the Emergency Board authorized Vermont Target Price Support Program

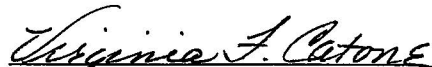
The Joint Fiscal Committee has reviewed the November 10th letter to the Governor from the Agriculture Committee Chairs. The Committee supports and endorses the Legislative Agriculture Chairs and the Administration's efforts to pay out the remaining assistance in the month of December. We urge that the parties work together to achieve this objective.

Representative Perry reminded the Committee that, as discussed at the November 9 meeting, the Emergency Board in July had authorized over \$8 million for an emergency relief program for dairy farmers. As then-Secretary of Agriculture Kerr told the Committee at that meeting, although the original expectation was to pay out the total authorized sum by the end of this calendar year, more than \$2 million will not be expended by year's end. The Agriculture Committee Chairs' letter recommended doing so.

On Representative Perry's motion, seconded by Senator Bartlett, the Committee acted affirmatively on his proposal. (*Note: The action was communicated to the requested parties on November 29.*)

The special meeting adjourned at 2:20 p.m.

Respectfully submitted:


Virginia F. Catone
Joint Fiscal Office