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Subject: research

When you return next week, can you begin researching whether and how the General Assembly may be able to appropriate any federal grant funds we receive for the flood. Those funds will come through HUD to our Dept. of Commerce, which must submit a state plan to HUD and distribute the funds. Commissioner Weathers wants us to use some of these grant funds for farmers (and there is indication from news reports that some of our federal delegation intends for those funds to go to farmers.)

By way of background, Chairman White announced last week (check news clips) that he and the Speaker will file a bill to provide relief to farmers; he doesn't give any details of that bill. He will clearly provide some funding for farmers but I'm not sure if he'll try to "take" some of those HUD grant funds from Commerce.

We need to prepare for that possibility. The last time I dealt with a similar issue was with the ARRA ("stimulus") federal funds under Sanford when he refused to accept those funds. We were sued in 2008 I think. The outcome was the General Assembly ultimately appropriated those ARRA funds.

David and Josh have the facts and more background.

Thanks!

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