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Date: 10/30/2012 1:30:53 PM
Subject: Tobacco Settlement Proceeds

I think we all received a copy of the Treasurer's October 12th letter regarding the disposition of future tobacco settlement proceeds. Although certain aspects of his memo struck me as being fairly straightforward, he also notes that there's still some existing ambiguity as we look forward (for instance, with respect to the transfers to Agriculture).

Obviously I'm oversimplifying to an extent, but since the two of you are largely responsible for deciding how much money we get to spend in the upcoming Executive Budget, I was wondering if you'd mind touching base with each other to see if you could develop a common position as to what funds would be available through the MSA in FY 2013-14 (and even potentially in the current year, since his memo refers to some resources that may be made available in June 2013).

We've already devoted a great deal of time to developing the expenditure side of the upcoming year's balance sheet in anticipation of the BEA's action on the revenue estimate next week. The balancing exercise will rest in part on the "official" interpretation of what we can do with the MSA, so ideally, the sooner we could have something in writing (ideally a joint position of OSB and BEA), the sooner we can get to a firmer balance sheet proposal over here. I know that's easier said than done.

As a final point, I also recognize that the tobacco companies' retainage for diligent enforcement is exceedingly difficult to predict and model, so I know that doesn't make the job any easier...

Thanks again for your help.

CLS

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