

From: Veldran, Katherine
To: Amy Duffy (aduffy@scprt.com) <aduffy@scprt.com>
Date: 6/16/2014 1:16:01 PM
Subject: Support Letter

Amy,
Duane told Ted this morning he would write a support letter for sustaining the veto below.
Ted asked me to send you the Governor's message regarding veto 26. Please let me know if you or Duane has any questions.
Katherine

Veto 26 Part IB, Page 410; Section 49, Department of Parks, Recreation and Tourism; Proviso 49.12, State Park Service

For years, supporters of the State Museum have reasonably argued that it made little sense to exempt visitors to non-profit museums from the admissions tax while continuing to impose that levy on visitors to the State Museum.

In each of the last two years, many of the same advocates have pushed for a budget proviso that they argued would provide the State Museum with comparable treatment to its peer institutions. Unfortunately, I was forced to veto that proviso on both occasions because it was written not to direct the State Museum to stop collecting the admissions tax – which would be identical treatment to the non-profit museums – but to instead allow the State Museum to keep charging the tax, but pocket the proceeds instead of remitting collections to the General Fund.

I appreciate that the General Assembly sustained my veto on both occasions and also honored my request to send S. 474 to my desk, which will finally give the State Museum the equitable treatment it sought – and on a permanent basis.

Now this year, a new proviso has been inserted into the budget that would work the same way as the twice-vetoed State Museum admissions tax proviso, except on behalf of our state parks instead.

I am vetoing this proviso for two reasons. First, unlike the State Museum, there is no equity argument – this proviso would not afford equal tax treatment to a state institution and its non-profit counterparts. Second, the net effect of this proviso is to provide the state parks with funds that would otherwise be remitted to the General Fund. This proviso introduces a needlessly opaque method of increasing funding for our parks and therefore stands in contrast to my efforts to make our budgets more transparent.

I am proud of our state parks and am willing to work with you to get them the resources they need, but let's do that in an open and forthright manner.

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