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Subject: SFAA Meeting

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At today's State Fiscal Accountability Authority Meeting, Chairman Leatherman and Comptroller General Eckstrom opposed a measure that would allow the Department of Administration to put two buildings up for sale: Dept of Education headquarters and PPP headquarters. Both agencies occupy buildings that do not serve their mission, are expensive to own and maintain, and have significant, costly deferred maintenance.

The Department of Administration has studied both buildings with a team of experts and determined that the state should consider selling the buildings and moving both agencies to better, cheaper buildings. That effort is supported by Superintendent Spearman and Director Adger. General Eckstrom professed to have never seen the study of those properties, which is unlikely unless he ignored it.

Senator Leatherman implied the agencies currently occupying the space would be left without a home if the building was sold out from under them. That would be impossible because a) Admin would never do that and the agencies would never agree to that. We clearly would not render any agency homeless, much less a cabinet agency.

Moreover, JBRC and SFAA have to approve both the ultimate sale of the buildings and the procurement of a new property or lease to house the agencies. This measure only gave the Department of Administration the ability to list the property for sale to test the market or begin negotiating a deal.

The measure to put the buildings on the market passed by a 3-2 vote. Chairman White, Treasurer Loftis, and Governor Haley voted for the measure, while General Eckstrom and Chairman Leatherman voted against it.