South Dakota Legislative Research Council

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June 19, 2014

Mr. Steven Pirner, Secretary
Department of Environment and Natural Resources
Joe Foss Building
Pierre, SD 57501

Letter of Intent Regarding Legislation Approved in the 2014 Session

Dear Mr. Pirner:

The 2014 South Dakota Legislature approved a special appropriation for $1,000,000 in general funds to the South Dakota Board of Water and Natural Resources through SB 53. This Letter of Intent supplements that appropriation with a specific policy guideline concerning the use of such funds.

It is the intent of the Interim Joint Committee on Appropriations that the funds be distributed to the Lewis and Clark Regional Water System as a zero interest reimbursable grant to be used as an advance on anticipated federal funding. The grant shall only be used for expenses related to the South Dakota portion of the Lewis and Clark Regional Water System. It is also the intent of the Committee that upon reimbursement from the Lewis and Clark Regional Water System, the Board of Water and Natural Resources shall deposit the money in the State General Fund. Therefore, the Committee directs the Board of Water and Natural Resources to distribute the funds based upon the expectation that the federal government will honor its commitment to provide funding, subsequently allowing the Lewis and Clark Regional Water System to reimburse the grant.

While this Letter of Intent does not have the force of statutory law, it rests solidly on a long-standing tradition of Legislature-Executive Branch relationships in South Dakota and it will be used by the Joint Committee as one basis for the fiscal oversight of the Executive Branch and its continued funding.

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Thank you for your cooperation.

Senator Deb Peters
Co-Chair, Interim Joint Appropriations

Representative Fred Romkema
Co-Chair, Interim Joint Appropriations

cc: Marty Guindon, Auditor General
Jason Dilges, Commissioner, Bureau of Finance and Management
Troy Larson, Executive Director, Lewis and Clark Regional Water System