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Senate Chamber
State of Colorado
Denver

LOCAL GOVERNMENT COMMITTEE
CHAIR

HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES
MEMBER

LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL
MEMBER

Senate Majority Caucus Chair

January 23, 2013

Senator Pat Steadman
Chair, Joint Budget Committee
200 East 14th Avenue, Third Floor
Denver, Colorado 80203

Dear Senator Steadman:

The SMART Government Act allows committees of reference to make formal recommendations to the Joint Budget Committee (JBC) regarding state departments' budgets, based on the committee's hearings with their assigned departments. The Senate Local Government Committee met on January 22, 2013, to discuss recommendations to the JBC per the SMART Government Act. At its meeting, the committee approved two recommendations regarding the Department of Local Affairs FY 2013-14 budget request.

The committee recommends that the JBC approve the Department of Local Affairs' request for:

- \$2.0 million General Fund to provide additional affordable housing units for workforce needs and lower income families; and
- \$3.0 million General Fund and 1.0 FTE within the Division of Local Government for the administration of a grant program to grow and diversify the economies of rural communities, with an emphasis on those communities that depend on a single large employer such as a state prison.

The Senate Local Government Committee also recommends that the Joint Budget Committee require additional information from the Department of Local Affairs concerning its request for \$2,740,852 million General Fund in FY 2013-14 to pay for case management, substance abuse treatment costs, limited medical care, and the operations and maintenance of a transitional therapeutic residential treatment community for up to 300 homeless individuals at Fort Lyon. Specifically, the department should:

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- demonstrate that, on a per-patient basis, the appropriation would be the most cost effective method for treating homeless individuals throughout the state;
- explain how the program would be supported beyond FY 2015-16;
- provide evidence that the local population supports the Fort Lyons transitional housing proposal and will be available to provide related services; and
- provide evidence that homeless individuals will be willing to move to Fort Lyons and avail themselves of its services.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Senator Jeanne Nicholson". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned to the right of the word "Sincerely,".

Senator Jeanne Nicholson, Chair
Senate Local Government Committee

- c: Joint Budget Committee Members
Senate Local Government Committee Members
Reeves Brown, Executive Director, Department of Local Affairs
Bruce Eisenhauer, Legislative Liaison, Department of Local Affairs
John Ziegler, Staff Director, Joint Budget Committee
David Beaujon, Legislative Council Staff