

Conference Subcommittee Report

Subcommittee: Housing, Agriculture and Environmental Conservation

Date: March 30, 2007

Time: 4:00PM

Place: LOB Hearing Room B

Present: Senators Marcellino (Co-Chair), Bonacic, Rath, Young, Valesky (D), and alternates Lanza and Krueger (D)

Assemblymembers Lopez (Co-Chair), Sweeney, Magee, McEneny, Thiele (R) and alternates Markey and Conte (R)

After thorough consideration, the Housing, Agriculture and Environmental Conservation Subcommittee has reached an agreement. We are pleased to present this report which provides detail on all the budget changes agreed to by the subcommittee, including agreement on spending levels and Article VII proposals for the agencies under the subcommittee's jurisdiction as follows:

Department of Agriculture and Markets;
NYS Energy Research and Development Authority;
Department of Environmental Conservation;
Environmental Facilities Corporation;
Adirondack Park Agency;
Department of Public Service;
Division of Housing and Community Renewal;
Greenway Heritage Conservancy for the Hudson River Valley;
Hudson River Valley Greenway Communities Council;
Northeastern Queens Nature and Historical Preserve;
Hudson River Park Trust;
Olympic Regional Development Authority;
Office of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation; and
State of New York Mortgage Agency.

The subcommittee allocates the \$35 million General Fund target and \$12.98 million reprogrammed agricultural related lump sums as follows:

SUBCOMMITTEE ON HOUSING, AGRICULTURE AND ENVIRONMENT

Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC)**Final Agreement**

North Elba/ORDA	155,250
Community Integrated Pest Management	400,000
Susquehanna River Basin Commission	188,000
Delaware River Basin Commission	123,000
Interstate Environmental Commission	23,280
Finger Lakes Institute for Water Quality	500,000
Timber Theft Education and Training Law Enforcement	30,000
Delaware River Basin Flood Control	250,000
Champlain Watershed Improvement Coalition	250,000
Trudeau Institute on Saranac Lake	250,000
Adirondack Watershed Institute	250,000
Wastewater Improvements Study	300,000
Sea Grant Institute	175,000
Peconic Estuary	200,000
Oak Brush State Preserve at Edgewood	225,000
Riverhead Foundation	100,000
Healthy Schools Network	75,000
Breast Cancer/Environmental Risk	500,000
Reject Regulatory Fees	2,565,320
Reject Title V Fees	6,395,000
Reject Hazardous Wastewater Technical Change	714,000

Subtotal Environment**13,668,850**

Department of Agriculture and Markets (AG&Markets)

Apiary Inspection	200,000
Agricultural Economic Development	118,000
Maple Producers Association	100,000
New York Seafood Council	100,000
NY Agritourism	1,200,000
NYS Apple Growers Association	750,000
Farm Viability Institute	5,000,000
Tractor Rollover Protection Program	200,000
Turfgrass Environmental Stewardship	175,000
Northern NY Agricultural Development	400,000
NY Wine and Grape Foundation	1,000,000
NY Wine Marketing Program	2,000,000
Cornell Association of Agricultural Educators	40,000
NYS Cattle Health Assurance at Cornell	450,000
Cornell Geneva Experiment Station	500,000
Cornell Integrated Pest Management	1,000,000
Cornell Agriculture In the Classroom	120,000

Cornell Apiary Research	85,000
NYS Veterinary Diagnostic Lab at Cornell	1,945,000
Cornell Rabies Program	250,000
Cornell Geneva Seed Inspection Program	200,000
Cornell Farm Family Assistance	300,000
Cornell Future Farmers of America	135,000
Cornell Golden Nematode	51,000
Cornell Fredonia Grape Entomologist	47,000
Cornell Hudson Valley Fruit Lab	85,000
Cornell Johnes Disease	300,000
Cornell Rabies Control Program- Long Island	350,000
Cornell Onion Research	100,000
Cornell Quality Milk Promotion	1,084,000
Cornell Avian Disease	315,000
Center for Dairy Excellence	750,000
Plum Pox Virus Eradication and Indemnity	500,000
Cornell Agricultural Assessment Research	60,000
Cornell Phytophthora Research	300,000
Cornell Cooperative Extension of Albany County	25,000
Value Added Processing Facility- SUNY Morrisville-Nelson Farm	250,000
Maple Producers Association State Fair Facility	250,000
Agribusiness Without Walls Program	50,000
Biodiesel Feasibility Research	50,000
New York Beef Producers Bull Testing	16,000
New York Beef Producers Empire Heifer Development	14,000
Cornell Fluid Milk Pricing Study	60,000

Subtotal Agriculture **20,925,000**

Office of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation (Parks)

French and Indian War 250 th Anniversary Commission	125,000
Hudson-Fulton-Champlain Quadricentennial Commission	250,000
Independence Trail	125,000
Schuylerville Revolutionary War Site	350,000
Belmont State Park	200,000
New York City Parks- Queens	175,000
Mohawk Valley Heritage Corridor Commission	283,075
Preservation League of New York	150,000

Subtotal Parks **1,658,075**

Adirondack Park Agency

Adirondack Local Government Review Board	50,000
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Subtotal Adirondack Park Agency	50,000
Housing	
Periodic Subsidies	4,000,000
NPCs	3,400,000
NYCHA Tenant Pilot Program	1,200,000
Lead Paint Poisoning Demonstration Program	400,000
RPCs	1,500,000
Urban Homeowners Assistance Program	388,075
Rural Community Revitalization	400,000
Homeownership Stabilization Loan Program for Long Island	390,000
Subtotal Housing	11,678,075
Total General Fund Expenditures	47,980,000

Environmental Conservation Agreement

The Assembly and Senate have reached an agreement to fund the Environmental Protection Fund (EPF) at a level of \$250 million.

Agriculture and Markets Agreement

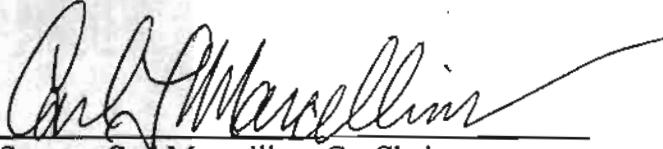
- The Legislature rejects the shift of certain personal and non-personal service costs to special revenue funds.
- The Subcommittee adopted unanimously a resolution calling for dairy assistance funding, a copy of which is attached.

Article VII

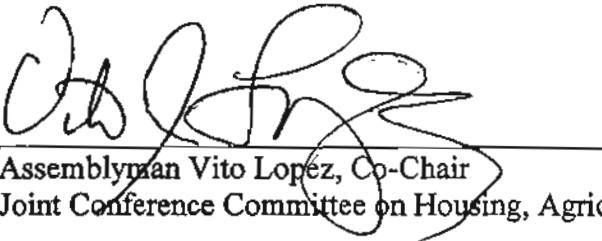
The subcommittee reached agreement on the following Article VII proposals:

- Deny Executive Bottle Bill proposal, however agrees to continue discussion post-budget regarding a Bottle Bill expansion;
- Reject Title V Operating Permit Program Fee increase;
- Reject DEC Regulatory Fee increases;
- Reject Hazardous Waste Fee amendments;
- Increase EPF General Fund loan guarantee by \$20 million;
- Accept the proposal to authorize assessments on utilities for certain expenses of the Department of Public Service and other State agencies;
- Accept the proposed transfer of certain NYSERDA funds;
- Accept the proposal to Authorize assessments on utilities for purposes of supporting the policy planning and research programs of NYSERDA;

- Reject the proposal authorizing the interception of local assistance aid to New York City related to the administration of the Rent Regulation Program; and
- The Legislature includes a new proposal to increase the aggregate cap on neighborhood and rural preservation programs.



Senator Carl Marcellino, Co-Chair
Joint Conference Committee on Housing, Agriculture and Environmental Conservation



Assemblyman Vito Lopez, Co-Chair
Joint Conference Committee on Housing, Agriculture and Environmental Conservation

JOINT UNANIMOUS RESOLUTION OF THE SUBCOMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE, ENVIRONMENTAL CONSERVATION AND HOUSING

March 30, 2007

On motion by Assemblyman Bill Magee, Chair of the Assembly Committee on Agriculture and seconded by Senator Catharine M. Young, Chair of the Senate Committee on Agriculture

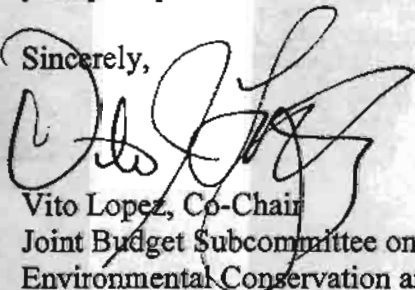
Members of the Joint Legislative General Conference Committee:

As members of the Joint Budget Subcommittee on Agriculture, Environmental Conservation and Housing, we urge you to identify an available resource to establish a *\$60 million Dairy Assistance Program* to provide direct and immediate relief to New York State's dairy farmers. Such funding would, as has been included in legislation advanced in both houses of the Legislature, provide an approximately 50-cent per hundredweight payment to the average farmer for milk produced during 2006. For a family farm milking 100 cows, this one-time payment would be approximately \$9,000.

While this issue was never formally before our Subcommittee for consideration, each of us recognizes the importance of New York's dairy industry, which provides literally billions of dollars of value to the economy of both Upstate and New York City. Joint legislative hearings held earlier this year confirmed beyond a doubt that these producers currently face the worst economic crisis of their lifetimes. In 2006, extremely low milk prices (well below prices received over 25 years ago), ruinous floods and high prices for fuel, feed, energy and fertilizer caused devastating – and in some cases irreversible – losses for dairy farms statewide.

A recent United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) Agricultural Resource Management Survey found New York State dairy earnings at a *negative* \$4.31 per hundredweight for 2006. That number does not account for farm labor and management costs; indeed, the average 100-cow milk operation lost over \$80,000 last year. Considering these facts, the Subcommittee feels strongly that the Legislature and Executive cannot, in good conscience, leave this issue unresolved as we work to enact a timely budget plan for New York State. Therefore we request your prompt attention to this very important matter.

Sincerely,



Vito Lopez, Co-Chair
Joint Budget Subcommittee on Agriculture,
Environmental Conservation and Housing



Carl L. Marcellino, Co-Chair
Joint Budget Subcommittee on Agriculture,
Environmental Conservation and Housing

Robert Sweeney, Chair
Assembly Committee on Environmental
Conservation

Bill Magee, Chair
Assembly Committee on Agriculture

John J. McEneny, Chair
Assembly Majority Steering Committee

Margaret M. Markey, Chair
Assembly Committee on House Operations

Fred W. Thiele, Jr., Ranking Minority Member
Assembly Education Committee

John J. Bonacic, Chair
Senate Committee on Housing, Construction &
Community Development.

Catharine M. Young, Chair
Senate Committee on Agriculture

Andrew J. Lanza, Chair
Senate Committee on Ethics

Mary Lou Rath, Chair
Senate Committee on Tourism, Recreation and
Sports Development

David J. Valesky, Ranking Minority Member
Senate Committee on Agriculture

Liz Krueger, Ranking Minority Member
Senate Committee on Housing, Construction
and Community Development