



STATE OF ARKANSAS
ASA HUTCHINSON
GOVERNOR
 February 10, 2015

Senator Larry Teague, Co-Chair
 Representative Lane Jean, Co-Chair
 Joint Budget Committee
 Arkansas General Assembly
 State Capitol Building
 Little Rock, AR 72201

Dear Co-Chairs:

I respectfully request an amendment to SB 207, the Annual Operations Appropriation Bill for the Arkansas Agricultural Department.

Please add the following sections and renumber accordingly.

SECTION . - APPROPRIATION- AGRICULTURE CASH OPERATING FUND.
There is hereby appropriated, to the Arkansas Agriculture Department to be payable from the cash fund deposited in the State Treasury as determined by the Chief Fiscal Officer of the State, for operating expenses of the Arkansas Agricultural Department for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2016, the following:

<u>ITEM</u>	<u>FISCAL YEAR</u>
<u>NO.</u>	<u>2015-2016</u>
(01) <u>MAINT. & GEN. OPERATION</u>	
(A) <u>OPER. EXPENSE</u>	<u>\$50,000</u>
(B) <u>CONF. & TRAVEL</u>	<u>0</u>
(C) <u>PROF. FEES</u>	<u>0</u>
(D) <u>CAP. OUTLAY</u>	<u>0</u>
(E) <u>DATA PROC.</u>	<u>0</u>
(02) <u>PROMOTIONAL ITEMS</u>	<u>\$10,000</u>
<u>TOTAL AMOUNT APPROPRIATED</u>	<u>\$60,000</u>

SECTION . SPECIAL LANGUAGE. NOT TO BE INCORPORATED INTO THE ARKANSAS CODE NOR PUBLISHED SEPARATELY AS SPECIAL, LOCAL AND TEMPORARY LAW. PROMOTIONAL ITEMS. The Chief Fiscal Officer of the State shall establish upon request for the Arkansas Agriculture Department a special Promotional Items appropriation to be used in the acquisition of promotional items.

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When the Arkansas Agriculture Department wishes to transfer from its operating expenses to the promotional items line, the request shall be forwarded by the Arkansas Agriculture Department to the Chief Fiscal Officer of the State for processing and for prior approval by the Arkansas Legislative Council or Joint Budget Committee. Determining the maximum number of employees and the maximum amount of appropriation and general revenue funding for a state agency each fiscal year is the prerogative of the General Assembly. This is usually accomplished by delineating such maximums in the appropriation act(s) for a state agency and the general revenue allocations authorized for each fund and fund account by amendment to the Revenue Stabilization law. Further, the General Assembly has determined that the Arkansas Agriculture Department may operate more efficiently if some flexibility is provided to the Arkansas Agriculture Department authorizing broad powers under this Section. Therefore, it is both necessary and appropriate that the General Assembly maintain oversight by requiring prior approval of the Legislative Council or Joint Budget Committee as provided by this section. The requirement of approval by the Legislative Council or Joint Budget Committee is not a severable part of this section. If the requirement of approval by the Legislative Council or Joint Budget Committee is ruled unconstitutional by a court of competent jurisdiction, this entire section is void. The provisions of this section shall be in effect only from July 1, 2015 through June 30, 2016.

This request will insure that the Arkansas Agriculture Department will have adequate appropriation to expend any unanticipated funding and provides special language to allow the Arkansas Agriculture Department to make transfers for promotional items.

I appreciate your consideration of this matter.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Asa Hutchinson", written over a large, stylized initial "A".

Asa Hutchinson

AH:brs:ald