



STATE OF ARKANSAS
 ASA HUTCHINSON
 GOVERNOR

February 17, 2017

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 the following amendments to SB267, the 2017-2018 Operations Appropriation Bill for the Department of Agriculture:

Please amend SECTION 7. APPROPRIATION- LIVESTOCK AND POULTRY - DIAGNOSTIC LABORATORY TESTING as follows:

ITEM NO.	FISCAL YEAR 2017-2018	
(04) MAINT. & GEN. OPERATION		
(A) OPER. EXPENSES	<u>1,608,077</u>	<u>1,708,077</u>
TOTAL AMOUNT APPROPRIATED	<u>\$2,120,608</u>	<u>\$2,220,608</u>

This request allows for Chronic Wasting Disease (CWD) testing expenses that were previously not known during the biennial budget preparation.

Please amend SECTION 16. APPROPRIATION - PLANT BOARD - ADMINISTRATION / PEST CONTROL as follows:

ITEM NO.	FISCAL YEAR 2017-2018	
(02) EXTRA HELP	<u>191,116</u>	<u>250,000</u>
(04) OVERTIME	<u>14,000</u>	<u>50,000</u>
TOTAL AMOUNT APPROPRIATED	<u>\$8,797,008</u>	<u>\$8,891,892</u>

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This request allows for additional extra help and overtime appropriation needed due to the growth of the Peanut Grading Program.

Please amend SECTION 19. APPROPRIATION -PLANT BOARD - APIARY as follows and renumber accordingly:

ITEM NO.	FISCAL YEAR 2017-2018	
(2) EXTRA HELP		<u>10,000</u>
TOTAL AMOUNT APPROPRIATED	<u>\$198,606</u>	<u>\$208,606</u>

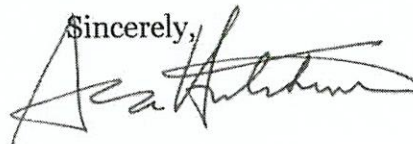
This request allows for utilizing extra help due to an increase in program size.

Please amend SECTION 27. APPROPRIATION - FORESTRY – OPERATIONS as follows:

ITEM NO.	FISCAL YEAR 2017-2018	
(02) EXTRA HELP	<u>85,855</u>	<u>255,855</u>
(06) MAINT. & GEN. OPERATION		
(A) OPER. EXPENSES	<u>1,292,020</u>	<u>2,292,020</u>
(B) CONF. & TRAVEL	<u>50,000</u>	<u>100,000</u>
TOTAL AMOUNT APPROPRIATED	<u>\$9,682,064</u>	<u>\$10,902,064</u>

This request allows for the hiring of additional extra help, expenses towards suppression costs in the event of extreme fire incidents and training for new firefighting staff due to employee turnover.

I appreciate your consideration of this matter.

Sincerely,

Asa Hutchinson

AH:db:wkt