



MONTANA LEGISLATIVE BRANCH

Legislative Fiscal Division

Room 110 Capitol Building * P.O. Box 201711 * Helena, MT 59620-1711 * (406) 444-2986 * FAX (406) 444-3036

Director
AMY CARLSON

November 7, 2014

Dear Agency Director,

I appreciate the effort you and your staff have expended on the 2017 biennium budget proposal. Since the budget system was extensively upgraded, all of us have undertaken a new learning experience. As you are wrapping up your work with the Governor's Office of Budget and Program Planning (OBPP), we are beginning in earnest our work on behalf of the legislature.

With the flexibility available in the new budgeting system, the Legislature will be evaluating the budget from the 2013 session approved funding level. Traditionally, budgeting has been measured from the most recently completed fiscal year, or FY 2014 actual expenditures. For the Budget Analysis and subcommittee presentations, the Legislature has requested our office to evaluate the budget from the level of funding approved in the 2013 session for FY 2015.

Nothing in this methodology changes the Governor's Budget for FY 2016 and FY 2017. The present law will be trued up to the Governor's present law budget in total. New proposals will be presented individually as the Governor has approved them. More details on exactly how this presentation will look are contained in the attached documents.

In the next few weeks, our analysts will be working through this change. As usual, our staff will be contacting your staff throughout the budget analysis period to clarify aspects of your budget submission as approved by the Governor. Please let your staff know of this change in presentation. If you have any questions regarding this change from tradition, please let me know. My phone number is 444-2988.

Sincerely,

Amy Carlson
Legislative Fiscal Analyst