

PHILIP B. SCOTT
GOVERNOR



State of Vermont
OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

March 20, 2023

The Honorable BetsyAnn Wrask
Clerk of the Vermont House of Representatives
115 State Street
Montpelier, VT 05633

Re: H.145, AN ACT RELATING TO FISCAL YEAR 2023 BUDGET ADJUSTMENTS

Dear Ms. Wrask:

Pursuant to Chapter II, Section 11 of the Vermont Constitution, H.145, *An act relating to fiscal year 2023 budget adjustments*, will become law without my signature for the reasons stated herein.

While I appreciate the General Assembly including nearly all the initiatives I asked for in budget adjustment, including additional housing, healthcare stabilization, home heating assistance, and more, I'm deeply concerned with the Legislature's changes that overspent my proposal by over \$50 million.

As I have previously shared in letters to Committee Chairs and in testimony given by my Administration, this will leave us with significantly less to put towards critical investments in the FY24 budget.

While some of the Legislature's additional spending may be worthy of consideration, there was no opportunity to weigh their merit against all other investments in the FY24 budget. Spending this much money so early in the session, without looking at everything in the aggregate means we can't be sure we're getting the most out of the historic one-time opportunity for Vermonters.

It's imperative the Legislature invest revenue surplus with more discipline and clarity. Failing to do so will squander the historic and transformative opportunity we find ourselves in.

Unfortunately, the Legislature's changes to the budget adjustment suggests a willingness to fall back into a spending, instead of investing, strategy, and I firmly believe we must not allow this to happen in the FY24 budget.

Instead, I ask we take a well-coordinated and strategic approach, in line with what I've recommended, to fund all the tangible and transformative community infrastructure projects, affordability and workforce initiatives and more, to get real and lasting results for every county and every community.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Philip B. Scott", written over a horizontal line.

Philip B. Scott
Governor