

## MEMORANDUM

TO: Michael Clasen, Deputy Secretary of Administration  
CC: Secretary Jeb Spaulding, Commissioner Jim Reardon,  
Deputy Commissioner Susan Zeller, Senate President *Pro Tempore*  
John Campbell, and House Speaker Shap Smith  
FROM: Representative Donna Sweaney, Chair, and Senator Diane Snelling, Vice  
Chair, Government Accountability Committee  
RE: Quarterly Outcome and Measures Reporting  
DATE: October 21, 2011

The Government Accountability Committee (GAC) has received your memorandum on behalf of the agencies and departments involved in the quarterly progress reporting (required for the last six quarters by 2010's Act No. 146) to temporarily suspend these reports until the Administration has completed its consolidated Strategic Planning Initiative. The Committee gratefully acknowledges the work of many who have helped create the quarterly reports, and who have also recently added responsibilities following the damage and dislocation of Tropical Storm Irene.

On behalf of the Legislature, we welcome the news of the Administration's government-wide strategic planning process to develop measurable outcomes in alignment with the Governor's priorities. Beginning in 2008, the legislative branch, via the Government Accountability Committee, has endeavored to collaborate with the executive branch in developing methods to measure the results of policy choices and inform long-term planning.

The Government Accountability Committee accepts the request to temporarily suspend the quarterly progress reports with the following agreements:

- The mutual goal of the Legislature and the Administration is an accessible system of data collection that objectively measures outcomes.
- A results-based system will serve any Governor, any General Assembly, and the public by clearly showing progress on all stated priorities.
- The Administration will continue to share updates with the GAC on the progress of the initial consolidated strategic plan, including a draft of the presentation template, and by December 5, 2011, will submit to the GAC a draft of the initial consolidated strategic plan.
- At its meeting on December 5, 2011, the GAC will review the draft plan, and consider if the legislative intent of the quarterly reports required by 2010's Act No. 146 can be achieved with a new format.
- Each agency shall identify possible fundamental changes in agency operation uncovered by Tropical Storm Irene.

In conclusion, we understand the exigencies of our current situation and the Administration's need to focus its efforts. It is our hope that the strategic planning efforts of the Administration and those that emerge from the legislative process will lead to a common process of setting goals and outcomes for Vermont's government.