



Washington
Finance Officers
Association

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April 6, 2016

HAND DELIVERED
APR 6 2016
OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

Dear Governor Inslee:

RE: Veto Request of the Budget Reductions to the Performance Audit Fund

This letter is written on behalf of the Washington Finance Officers Association (WFOA). WFOA membership represents over 1,200 financial professionals from approximately 600 local governments and state agencies from across Washington. WFOA's mission is to promote excellence in governmental finance through leadership, education, and communication for the public benefit.

We are writing to express support for the Washington State Auditor's Office (SAO) and their many proactive, "good-government" services that benefit our members. Specifically, we want to guarantee the work of the **Local Government Performance Center (LGPC)** continues by asking you to veto the budget reductions of Section 134, page 41 lines 13 and 14, appropriation \$10 million of the Performance Audit of Government Account to the Department of Revenue, in an effort to preserve the resources dedicated by citizens of Washington State by the passing of Initiative 900. In creating this dedicated account, the original legislation called for ensuring "accountability and guaranteeing that the tax dollars are spent as cost effectively as possible." The LGPC has utilized results of the audits from this program to help local governments solve problems, reduce costs, and improve the value of their services to citizens.

The LGPC began work in 2012, bringing the lessons of performance management to government via training, tools, and technical assistance. Since that time, thousands of local officials have received training and dozens of important processes have been reviewed and significantly improved. Overall, the quality of affected local government services has improved thereby positively affecting our communities and citizens. We believe it is a significantly better practice to identify opportunities for improvement, enhance staff knowledge and avoid fiscal difficulties before they occur.

The efforts of the LGPC should be supported and sustained. We oppose the reduction or diversion of these resources and respectfully request that you veto budget section 134, lines 13 and 14.

Sincerely,

Carmen Hayter, President
Washington Finance Officers Association

Washington Finance Officers Assoc.

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Governor Jay Inslee

Office of the Governor

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