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**Joint Committee on
Ways and Means**

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Sen. Jackie Winters, Senate Co-Vice Chair
Rep. Dan Rayfield, House Co-Vice Chair
Rep. Greg Smith, House Co-Vice Chair

To: Ways and Means Full Committee

From: Public Safety Subcommittee

Re: HB 5044 Department of Corrections and Department of Forestry 2015-17 Rebalance

Representative Huffman: “HB 5044 completes legislative actions taken on behalf of the Department of Corrections to address budgetary shortfalls in the 2015-17 budget, and provides additional resources to the Department of Forestry to pay the insurance premium for a catastrophic wildfire insurance policy for the 2017 fire season.

This bill re-balances the Department of Corrections’ budget between divisions, and provides \$5 million of General Fund to make up a budget shortfall remaining from the unspecified General Fund reduction included in the agency’s 2015-17 budget. The Department has managed this shortfall through a combination of vacancy savings and spending reductions in services and supplies throughout the current biennium.

HB 5044 also provides \$1.7 million General Fund and \$1.7 Other Funds expenditure limitation to the Department of Forestry to purchase a catastrophic wildfire insurance policy for the 2017 fire season. Identical to the policy purchased last year, this insurance policy will provide \$25 million in large-fire funding coverage, after a \$50 million deductible. Finally, the bill removes \$700,000 General Fund appropriation and \$800,000 Other Funds expenditure limitation provided to the Department of Forestry for a procurement system that will not be completed by the end of the biennium.

The Public Safety Subcommittee recommends HB 5044 be amended by the –1 amendment and be reported out do pass, as amended.”