

Theresa Utton

Subject: FW: Statement on Governor's Proposed FY2016 State Budget

From: Garcia, Preston P. []

Sent: Thursday, March 12, 2015 1:21 PM

To: Theresa Utton

Subject: Statement on Governor's Proposed FY2016 State Budget

Mrs Utton-Jerman,

My name is Preston Garcia and I am an assistant professor of microbiology at Castleton State College. I ask that the proposed budget cuts for high education be reconsidered. Our support for higher education is already at levels that are unsustainable, further cuts will do nothing but continue that slide that started in 1980.

We have excellent students here at Castleton that are driven to succeed while in school, but more importantly after they graduate. However, they are being saddled with every increasing debt as college graduates from the state of Vermont. Cutting public higher education is a short-sighted solution to a temporary budget shortfall.

With bills like the Occupancy Fee Bill and the Portability bill, AFT Vermont has been working with legislators to find alternative revenue. However, that hard work will only be rewarded if our funding is not cut any further. If we lose what little state funding we do have we will never recover. Please don't cut public higher education further,

Thank you,

Preston P. Garcia, Ph.D.

Assistant Professor of Microbiology