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**STATE OF VERMONT**  
**OFFICE OF THE ATTORNEY GENERAL**  
109 STATE STREET  
MONTPELIER, VT  
05609-1001

September 8, 2017

Robert Eaton  
6197 Castle Gate Dr. W, Unit 2222  
Castle Rock, CO 20108

Re: Public Records Request

Dear Mr. Eaton:

I write to provide you with a more detailed cost estimate in response to your public record act request dated August 9, 2017, which our Office received on August 15, 2017. Thank you for your patience as we continue to try to get a sense of the volume of electronic records subject to your request. We wanted to provide you with this updated cost estimate for now and confirm whether you are willing to pay below costs before we proceed further with processing your request.

First, please understand that many parts of your forty-point request call for statutes, facts, or legal analyses that would not be the type of information subject to release in response to a public records act. We have sought to focus on the portions of your request that call for records produced or acquired in the course of agency business, and have sought to generate a cost estimate based on those portions of your request.

As noted in our last correspondence, you previously submitted a letter with ten separate requests for documents and information in 2014. You received 68 pages at no cost to you, and were advised that recordings related to your request would cost \$684.00 to redact and produce to you. As previously stated, this estimate of costs related to recordings continues to apply.

In addition, several parts of your recent request call for records dating back to 2003, and at least one part of your recent request seeks information going back to 1993. We continue to seek to determine the volume of potentially responsive records to these portions of your request. At this time, based on a search of

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electronic records facilitated by the Agency of Digital Services, it appears we will have to review at least 500 electronic records to process these portions of your request. We estimate that these records are, on average, two pages each, for a total of 1000 pages. We estimate that review and possible redactions of these records may take two or more minutes a page. Using a conservative estimate of two minutes per page, the time necessary to process the 1000 pages of potentially responsive electronic records is likely to be 2000 minutes, or 33 hours. 2000 minutes, minus the first 30 minutes, billed at the lowest possible rate under the Secretary of State's fee schedule (\$.33 a minute) is  $1970 \times \$.33 = \$650$ .

While we have been seeking to determine the volume of potentially responsive electronic records, we have also sought to determine the volume of potentially responsive paper records. Currently, we are aware of approximately 4000 pages of potentially responsive paper records that would need to be reviewed to respond to your request. We estimate that review and possible redactions of these records may take two or more minutes a page. Using a conservative estimate of two minutes per page, the time necessary to process the 4000 pages of potentially responsive records is likely to be 8000 minutes, or 133 hours. 8000 minutes billed at the lowest possible rate under the Secretary of State's fee schedule (\$.33 a minute) is  $8000 \times \$.33 = \$2640$ .

We ask that you confirm your willingness to pay the above costs before we proceed further with processing your request. Alternatively, as noted to you in our prior correspondence, we ask that you consider narrowing your request.

We hope the above information is helpful to you and we will wait to hear from you before proceeding further with this request.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Karen M. Farnsworth', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Karen M. Farnsworth  
Paralegal