



STATE OF ARKANSAS
ASA HUTCHINSON
GOVERNOR

April 8, 2020

Senator Larry Teague, Co-Chair
 Representative Lane Jean, Co-Chair
 Joint Budget Committee
 Arkansas General Assembly
 State Capitol Building
 Little Rock, AR 72201

Dear Co-Chairs:

I respectfully request the following amendment to SB87, the 2020-2021 Operations Appropriation Bill for the Department of Commerce – Division of Workforce Services:

Please amend SECTION 2 – APPROPRIATION - OPERATIONS as follows:

ITEM NO.		FISCAL YEAR 2020-2021
(02) EXTRA HELP	3,300,000	3,800,000
(04) OVERTIME	60,000	1,060,000
TOTAL AMOUNT APPROPRIATED	\$76,046,725	\$77,546,725

Please amend SECTION 3 – APPROPRIATION – UNEMPLOYMENT BENEFITS AND EXPENSES - CASH as follows:

ITEM NO.		FISCAL YEAR 2020-2021
(02) FEDERAL EMPLOYEES BENEFIT PAYMENTS	45,000,000	455,000,000
(04) U I BENEFITS – TAXABLE EMPLOYERS	400,000,000	2,000,000,000
TOTAL AMOUNT APPROPRIATED	\$473,000,001	2,483,000,001

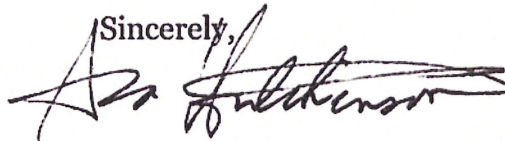
Please add the following section, renumber the sections accordingly, and amend the emergency clause:

SECTION (X.) APPROPRIATION – UNEMPLOYMENT BENEFITS AND EXPENSES – CASH. There is hereby appropriated, to the Department of Commerce, to be payable from cash funds as defined by Arkansas Code 19-4-801, for unemployment benefit payments and other expenses including, disaster relief payments, training allowances, payments to participant contractors and Unemployment Insurance Trust Fund loan repayments by the Department of Commerce - Division of Workforce Services - Unemployment Benefits and Expenses - Cash for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2020, the following:

<u>ITEM NO.</u>	<u>FISCAL YEAR 2019-2020</u>
<u>(01) FEDERAL EMPLOYEES BENEFITS PAYMENTS</u>	<u>\$1,070,000,000</u>
<u>(02) U I BENEFITS – TAXABLE EMPLOYERS</u>	<u>300,000,000</u>
<u>TOTAL AMOUNT APPROPRIATED</u>	<u>\$1,370,000,000</u>

This request is necessary to ensure that the state has sufficient appropriation to support the processing and payment of unemployment benefit payments to Arkansas citizens who have been impacted by the 2020 Public Health Emergency.

I appreciate your consideration of this matter.

Sincerely,


Asa Hutchinson