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To:	DOF-ALL EMPLOYEES
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Hello everyone;

Governor Northam announced last week that the Commonwealth ended FY2020 with a budget shortfall of $236 million. Under normal circumstances this would be very bad news and cause for alarm. However, given the almost complete economic collapse due to COVID-19 and early projections of a billion-dollar state deficit, this news isn't so bad. This speaks to the fact that Virginia's underlying economy is very strong, state revenue actually grew by 2% last year compared to the previous year. The continued announcements of new businesses moving to Virginia and businesses choosing to expand their operations in Virginia indicates widespread confidence in Virginia's leadership and potential. Virginia also seems to have demonstrated a good response to COVID-19 so far and hopefully everyone will continue to support the small daily sacrifices necessary to prevent much greater impacts that are occurring in other states.

Now the budget folks in Richmond have to refigure revenue projections for the next two years and come up with a new and significantly reduced biennium budget. This work is not expected to be completed before September. Until then we are continuing to operate under last year's agency budget and anticipating that we will need to make reductions in our approved budget for the next two years. We are carrying a lot of open positions right now and we are evaluating what if any positions we can fill while awaiting our revised budget.

I am looking forward to seeing everyone at the DOF Service Awards Celebration on Thursday. Thanks to Hector and Tammi and Kristi for making it possible to hold our annual recognition event while taking the necessary precautions.

Take care this week in the heat and humidity and have a good, safe week.

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