Justin P. Wilson
Comptroller

STATE OF TENNESSEE
COMPTROLLER OF THE TREASURY
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Jason E. Mumpower
Chief of Staff

March 17, 2016

The Honorable Randy McNally, Chairman
Senate Finance, Ways and Means Committee
307 War Memorial Building
Nashville, Tennessee 37243

and

The Honorable Charles Sargent, Chairman
House Finance, Ways and Means Committee
206 War Memorial Building
Nashville, Tennessee 37243

Dear Chairmen:

Pursuant to Section 9-4-5202, Tennessee Code Annotated, the State Funding Board secures a report of the estimated growth rate of the State's economy for the coming fiscal year from The University of Tennessee's Center for Business and Economic Research (CBER). A copy of this report, dated March 7, 2016, is attached. This estimate is based on the projection of growth of personal income contained within the broader economic forecast derived from the Tennessee Econometric Model. A detailed discussion of the forecast is provided in An Economic Report to the Governor of the State of Tennessee, dated January 2016. This report currently can be found on UT-CBER's website. [http://cber.haslam.utk.edu/erg/erg2016.pdf]

The statute directs the Board to determine the reasonableness of the estimated growth rate. In order to reach a conclusion, the Board met on March 10, 2016 to discuss the estimate and the economic forecast from which it was derived. The Board was assisted in its effort by a staff paper prepared by Mr. William Wood, Budget Analyst in the Office of the Comptroller. This staff analysis, attached for your information, compares gross domestic product estimates produced by CBER with the estimates produced by other economic forecasting agencies, and also evaluates current economic conditions and trends via outside forecasts. The staff analysis and CBER's report on the estimated growth rate will be available on the Comptroller's website under "Investor Information- Investor Updates-Fiscal Year 7/1/15-6/30/16". [http://www.comptroller.tn.gov/SL/InvestorUpdatefy.asp]

After carefully reviewing the report, staff paper, and discussing the forecast, the Board has directed me to convey to you our determination. The Board finds that the following estimates of growth rate in Tennessee nominal personal income are not unreasonable:

- determined at 4.90% for fiscal year 2016;
- determined at 4.77% for calendar year 2016; and
- determined at 4.67% for calendar year 2017.

Also, attached is a list of state tax and non-tax revenue sources as approved by the State Attorney General as of March 10, 2016.

Sincerely,

Justin P. Wilson, Secretary
Tennessee State Funding Board

Attachments (3)
JPW:ww