



TREASURER OF STATE

May 9, 2017

For Immediate Release

Media Contact: Stacy Peterson
Phone: 501-682-3838 office; 501-519-3650 cell
Email: stacy.peterson@artreasury.gov

Treasurer Dennis Milligan Announces Third Quarter Earnings, \$100 Million Received Back to Arkansas During His Administration

Little Rock – The Treasurer of State’s office has hit a milestone in investment receipts, topping \$100 million in money received back to the state from its \$3.5 billion investment portfolio, Treasurer Dennis Milligan announced Tuesday to the State Board of Finance.

For the first half of fiscal year 2015, which ran from July 2015 to December 2015, Milligan reported receipted amounts of \$12 million. His office receipted \$48.9 million in fiscal year 2016, and has receipted \$39.4 million as of the third quarter of this fiscal year, which ended March 31.

Milligan was elected in November 2014.

“When I became Treasurer, I challenged my team to take a more active investment approach, and they have set the bar very high for us,” Milligan told the finance board. “My team has grown the state’s investment portfolio receipts to their highest level in nearly a decade.”

The State Treasury earned \$1.7 million more in the third quarter of 2017 than it did during the same time frame the previous year. Most of the increase came from long-term investments in mortgage-backed securities.

Federal interest rates are higher and thus producing higher yields, Milligan told the Board.

“Additionally, we continue to negotiate more favorable rates on our demand accounts while positioning the short-term portfolio to get the best returns for the state,” he added.

The State Treasury is performing so well that other state agencies are asking it to invest their extra funds as well.

The Arkansas Workers’ Compensation Commission requested the help of the Treasury’s investment team last year to help with the insolvency of its Death and Permanent Total Disability fund. Typically, the fund invests roughly \$108 million and receives about \$18 million per fiscal year on its investment receipts, Milligan said.

“I’m glad to report to you today that we’ve been investing their money for a full calendar year now and are on our way to outpace the previous years’ \$18 million in receipted amounts,” he said.

The increased investment receipts have also caused the governor’s office to look toward the State Treasury for some much needed highway funds as well. Because of the increased returns, Gov. Asa Hutchinson was able to allocate funds for his highway plan without increasing taxes.

“We will be able to use the funds earned by my office to secure the federal match, creating more jobs and safer highways for Arkansans,” Milligan said. “I love our beautiful state, and I plan on doing all I can to make it a place that businesses and families alike can locate to, live, and grow in.”

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Dennis Milligan was elected Treasurer of State in 2014. The State Treasury is responsible for overseeing the state’s \$3.5 billion portfolio. Since taking office in 2015, Milligan has receipted the state \$100 million in investment returns and has grown the investment portfolio’s receipts to their highest level in nearly a decade.