

COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS
MASSACHUSETTS SENATE
STATE HOUSE, BOSTON 02133-1053

Anne M. Gobi
STATE SENATOR

Worcester, Hampden,
Hampshire & Middlesex

Tel. (617) 722-1540

Fax (617) 722-1078

E-Mail: Anne.Gobi@masenate.gov

PRESS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:
Monday, October 15, 2018

CONTACT: Derek Silver
PHONE: 617-722-1540

Gobi and Ashe Named to Chair Commission Studying Crumbling Foundations in Massachusetts

BOSTON- Senator Anne Gobi (D-Spencer) and Representative Brian Ashe (D- Longmeadow) are pleased to announce today their appointment to Co-Chair the special commission studying the issue of crumbling concrete foundations in Massachusetts, which are deteriorating as a result of the presence of a mineral known as pyrrhotite in the concrete aggregate. The commission was established through an amendment, submitted by Senator Eric Lesser (D- Longmeadow), to the FY19 State Budget- and will be tasked with examining the scope and potential financial/economic impact the issue will have on the homeowners and the Commonwealth.

“This Commission is a necessary step in determining the scope of the problem and to make sure people are helped,” remarked Senator Gobi. “Homes are typically the largest and most important asset and affect the property value of everyone in the community. I look forward to working with Representative Ashe and thank Senator Lesser for his assistance and collaboration.”

“Homeowners who have this issue with their foundations have been dealt a terrible blow – not only do their houses need expensive repairs, but their homes are unsellable until they complete those repairs. This has wide-ranging ramifications for our housing market and our property tax base. This commission will assess how extensive this problem is across our Commonwealth, and what it will take to help homeowners repair their homes and recoup this huge loss to the value of their properties,” said Senator Lesser.

"Our constituents deserve nothing less than a thorough investigation into what happened, and how the Commonwealth can provide relief to homeowners effected by this problem", State

Representative Ashe said. "Through no fault of their own, homeowners have seen their home values plummet - leaving them with few options and fewer solutions. This isn't only a problem for residents, it's a problem for the municipalities that rely on property taxes to fund our schools, roads, and public safety. I am proud to have sponsored this important first step in addressing this very serious issue".

The commission will consist of an 11-member panel from varying backgrounds that will be tasked with several items, including:

- Examining the degree to which concrete foundations are crumbling due to the presence of pyrrhotite in the commonwealth.
- Estimating the cost to fully restore concrete foundations damaged due to the presence of pyrrhotite.
- Analyzing the effect the presence of pyrrhotite has on property values and the resulting fiscal impact on property tax revenues.
- Providing an analysis of the impact on the real estate industry.
- Review of the best practices undertaken in other states which have faced this issue.

The commission must submit the results of their study and recommendations, including drafts of legislation necessary to carry the recommendations into effect, by February 1st, 2019.

For more information on the commission, please contact Senator Gobi's office at 617-722-1540.

###