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PRESS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:
Thursday, December 10, 2015

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Gobi, Berthiaume, Ferguson, Smola Announce Brookfield Barracks Will Stay Open

BOSTON – Senator Anne M. Gobi (D-Spencer), Representative Donald R. Berthiaume (R-Spencer), Representative Kimberly N. Ferguson (R-Rutland) and Representative Todd M. Smola (R-Warren) are happy to announce that State Police Station C-3, located in the Town of Brookfield. The barracks had been scheduled for closure on December 12th.

After an outpouring of opposition from local police chiefs and residents Sen. Gobi along with Reps. Berthiaume, Ferguson and Smola filed legislation that calls for a number of assessments to be conducted including: a study on the public safety impacts of the closing, a cost analysis of the closing, including financial impacts on the served communities, and a thorough appraisal of the building, land and structures on the property, including the yearly maintenance costs of each. A report of each study must be submitted to the Senate President, Speaker of the House and the Senators and Representatives that serve the member communities.

“I’m glad of the reversal of the decision,” **said Sen. Gobi.** “It was not well thought out to begin with and we shouldn’t have even been at this point to contemplate the closing. This is a vital barracks in assisting our police in ensuring the protection of our communities.”

"I would like to thank Governor Charlie Baker on behalf of all the local officials and police chiefs served by the Brookfield C-3 Barracks for reviewing the pertinent information regarding this issue," **said Rep. Berthiaume.** "Keeping this facility open alleviates the concerns shared by the district residents. In the end, by reexamining all of the data presented to the administration, the proper decision was made to continue with the operation of the barracks and all the services provided by it.

“I want to thank everyone who was involved in the effort to keep the Brookfield Barracks open and I applaud the Governor's administration for their decision,” **said Rep. Ferguson.** “Small towns in Central Massachusetts rely on each other for resources to ensure the public's safety and the impact of the closing would have been felt throughout the region.”

“Closing the Brookfield Barracks is a major public safety decision,” **said Rep. Smola.** “It’s essential that everyone involved take a closer look at this from all sides.”

The legislation would require a public hearing be held in Barre, Brookfield and Paxton, chosen because of their geographic locations relative to the other member communities. The hope is that residents of the communities will be able to have a voice in the fate of the barracks.

The Brookfield State Police Barracks was built in 1930 and covers 334 square miles. The barracks also assists local part-time and pull-time area police departments needing services.

For more information contact Senator Anne Gobi at Anne.Gobi@masenate.gov or 617-722-1540.

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