

COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS  
**MASSACHUSETTS HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES**  
STATE HOUSE, BOSTON 02133-1053

**Anne M. Gobi**  
**STATE REPRESENTATIVE**  
5<sup>th</sup> Worcester District

Tel. (617) 722-2210  
Fax (617) 722-2239  
E-Mail: Anne.Gobi@mahouse.gov

## **PRESS RELEASE**

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:**

**CONTACT: Brian Ferrarese**

**Monday, December 16, 2013**

**PHONE: 617-722-2210**

### **GOBI AND BREWER PART OF SIX MEMBER CONFERENCE COMMITTEE**

**BOSTON**—State Representative Anne M. Gobi (D-Spencer), House Chair of the Joint Committee on Environment, Natural Resources and Agriculture, and Senator Brewer (D-Barre), Chairman of Senate Ways and Means were recently selected as members of a conference committee tasked with working out the final version of a bill that relates to mercury thermostats.

"It is an honor to get chosen to represent the House in negotiations on this important legislation," said Rep. Gobi, "I look forward to working with Senator Brewer and other members of the conference committee in coming to an agreement that is in the best interest of the Commonwealth and offering the environmental protections that are so necessary."

The current mercury recycling program is a voluntary one. There are two versions of the mercury thermostat bill, both of which would turn the program into a mandatory act.

"Mercury is a serious environmental and public health problem," said Brewer. "I look forward to joining Representative Gobi and members of the conference committee to address this matter. It is critical that we update Massachusetts' mercury management laws to minimize the risk that mercury will be released in to the environment and to ensure that we have the adequate tools and resources to manage mercury containing products."

Gobi and Brewer join Rep. Ellen Story (D-Amherst), Rep. Susan Gifford (R-Wareham), Sen. Jennifer Flanagan (D-Leominster) and Sen. Robert Hedlund (R-Weymouth) on the six person committee.

# # #