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PRESS RELEASE

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Senator Gobi Announces Monson and Templeton LAND Grant Awards

BOSTON – Senator Anne M. Gobi (D-Spencer) has announced two grants awarded to Monson and Templeton through the Local Acquisitions for Natural Diversity (LAND) Grant Program. The grant program, overseen by the Executive Office of Energy and Environmental Affairs' (EEA) Division of Conservation Services (DCS), seeks to address climate change and protect biodiversity within the Commonwealth.

“I am very fortunate to represent communities that value open space and conservation of our natural resources and I appreciate that the administration is showing their support as well,” **said Senator Gobi (D-Spencer)**. “These grants are critical to ensuring that future generations will also be able to enjoy these environmentally sensitive areas.”

The Town of Monson will be receiving \$207,740 for the conservation of two woodland parcels that will become part of a greenway from Peaked Mountain to the Miller Forest. The parcels are habitat for various turtle species, including the Eastern Box Turtle.

The Town of Templeton will be receiving \$181,405 for the purchase of four woodland parcels, owned by the Fernald Corp., a mental health institution, abutting the Templeton Development Center. The project seeks to provide a connection to existing protected lands and will serve as a catalyst for future conservation efforts.

The LAND Program (formerly the Self-Help Program) was established in 1961 to assist municipal conservation commissions in acquiring land for natural resource protection and passive outdoor recreation purposes. Any municipal conservation commission with an approved Open Space and Recreation Plan is eligible to apply for this program.

For more information regarding the Local Acquisitions for Natural Diversity (LAND) Program, please visit EEA's [website](#).

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