

COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS  
**MASSACHUSETTS SENATE**  
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## **PRESS RELEASE**

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### **SENATOR GOBI SELECTED TO CHAIR ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE AND ELECTION LAWS COMMITTEE; VICE CHAIR OF VETERANS COMMITTEE**

#### **Fourth Consecutive Term as Environmental Chair**

**(Boston)** –Senator Anne M. Gobi (D-Spencer) has been selected by Senate President Stanley Rosenberg to Chair the Joint Committee on Environment, Natural Resources and Agriculture and the Joint Committee on Election Laws. She has also been selected to be Vice-Chair of the Joint Committee on Veterans and Federal Affairs

Senator Gobi has been the Chair of the Environment Committee for six years and is still passionate about the position. She has worked to craft and advance important legislation to protect the Massachusetts environment. Last session she worked with House Chair Rep. Paul Schmid III (D-Westport) to develop an omnibus agricultural package, *An Act to promote agriculture in the Commonwealth*. This legislation aims to provide opportunities and protections to current and prospective farmers throughout Massachusetts, increase access and availability of locally grown food products, and invest in educational and agricultural programs to further grow the industry. The legislation would end up passing in the Senate by all but one vote.

“I appreciate the trust the Senate President has placed in me to continue as Chair of ENRA and the new responsibility as Chair of Election Laws,” said Senator Gobi.

Senator Gobi is also thrilled to be Vice Chair of the Veterans Committee. As a daughter of a World War II Navy Veteran, she understands the importance of supporting our veterans who protect our Commonwealth and country. Last session the Senator helped pass the Veterans HOME Act, an omnibus Veterans Bill that continues the strong reputation that Massachusetts has as a leader in understanding the sacrifice that military personnel and their families make not only while on active duty, but also after returning home. This Bill focuses on housing, tax

benefits, education, and long-term support for veterans in Massachusetts. In her role as Senate Chair of the Environment Committee she included the Massachusetts Veterans and Warriors to Agriculture Program Fund in the agricultural bill to enhance the education, training, employment, productivity and retention of veterans.

Senator Gobi has found added incentive to remain as Senate Chair of the Environment Committee. Residents in two communities in her district, Charlton and Sturbridge, have found water contamination in their wells and have been forced to use bottled water. The wells were found with high levels of 1,4 dioxane a likely carcinogen and DEP has identified nearby Southbridge Landfill as the potential responsible party. Senator Gobi has made it her top priority to not only restore clean water to these homes, but to reform landfill policy to protect abutting communities.

“The recent decision by DEP to deny the landfill expansion is an important step but there are still numerous health and environmental concerns that must be dealt with,” said Senator Gobi. “I stand with the residents of Charlton and Sturbridge as well as others across the Commonwealth who are adversely impacted by contamination issues associated with landfills and will continue to work for a solution.”

Senator Gobi has always had passion and respect for the outdoors. She has received awards from the Worcester League of Sportsmen, Mahar Fish and Game Club, and the Massachusetts Nursery and Landscape Association. She is co-founder of the bi-partisan Massachusetts Sportsmen’s Caucus with Rep. Vieira (R-Barnstable). She has also filed an omnibus Sportsmen’s bill entitled An Act Relative to Outdoor Heritage. This bill would create safe, smart, and protective laws to avoid conflict or accidents within recreational hunting. The bill will allow lawful hunting on Sundays and to remove the prohibition on crossbow hunting. Hunters and non-hunters should feel safe and respected and this bill will help create communication and understanding of one another. Massachusetts counts more than 538,000 hunters and anglers who spend \$626 million annually and support 9,101 jobs.

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