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PRESS RELEASE

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Senator Gobi Supports Fisheries and Wildlife Board's Decision to Suspend Quabbin Rattlesnake Plan

(BOSTON) – **Senator Anne M. Gobi (D-Spencer)** is pleased to announce that the Fisheries and Wildlife Board voted to suspend a plan to establish a timber rattlesnake colony on Mt. Zion Island in the Quabbin Reservoir. The vote took place Wednesday morning at their 10:00am board meeting.

“Preservation of endangered species is a major priority of mine and members of the Fisheries and Wildlife Board,” said Senator Gobi. “However, the Quabbin Reservoir is a vital resource, with a history of sacrifice. The decision to convene the Rattlesnake Working Group was an important measure to hear from area residents and to determine if this plan was the right one. In the end it wasn't, but it was an honor to work with all the members of the working group to make this a completely transparent process. I look forward to working with the Baker-Polito Administration to protect existing habitats and increase penalties for those who harm endangered species.”

The board also voted to discharge the working group stating concerns of putting remaining rattlesnake habitats at risk. They also cited the need for a statewide approach to conservation of the species. Legislators intend to explore increased penalties for violations of the Massachusetts Endangered Species Act to help protect existing endangered species populations.

Senator Gobi represents the 28 towns of the Worcester, Hampden, Hampshire and Middlesex district, which includes the Quabbin Reservoir and many of its surrounding communities. She is also the Senate Chair of the Joint Committee on Environment, Natural Resources, and Agriculture.

If you have any questions please feel free to contact Senator Gobi's office at 617-722-1540.

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