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PRESS RELEASE

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Gobi and Lesser Announce Senate Budget Amendment to Reimburse Homeowners for Concrete Foundation Inspections

BOSTON- **Senator Anne M. Gobi (D-Spencer)** joined her colleague, **Senator Eric P. Lesser (D- East Longmeadow)** today in announcing that the Massachusetts Senate adopted an amendment to the FY19 Budget to help remediate the cost of testing for the presence of the mineral aggregate, pyrrhotite, in the basement walls and foundations of homes located within a 20-mile radius of J.J Mottes Concrete Company, located in Stafford Springs, Connecticut.

Senator Gobi had this to say on the amendment's adoption, "I appreciate the support of my Senate colleagues and that they understand that families and their homes are in peril. This is just one of many steps that need to be taken to assist people and I am committed to being a part of that assistance."

"The testing of these foundations can cost thousands of dollars, which is a big expense for a family and one that these homeowners should have never had to pay. I'm glad that Senator Gobi stepped up to protect these families with a reimbursement program for this testing, and I look forward to working with her on the next steps for us to take to provide relief and assistance to homeowners," said Sen. Eric Lesser, who introduced a budget amendment creating a commission to identify the extent of crumbling concrete foundations in Massachusetts, and what measures lawmakers can take to assist homeowners.

The amendment allocates \$50,000 for the program, which homeowners will be reimbursed at a rate of 100% for visual testing conducted by a licensed professional engineer up to \$400 and a rate of 75% for the testing of two core samples up to \$5000.

The damage, described as spider or web-cracking, is caused by an iron sulfide called pyrrhotite that begins to degrade when exposed to water and oxygen. While the mineral is rare, reports found that all the concrete in question originated from the same quarry and supply company, JJ Mottes Concrete and Septic Supply located in Stafford, Connecticut. It is believed that an estimated 34,000 homes in Connecticut alone are affected.

The amendment will be included in the Senate's final version and subject to conference committee negotiations with the House of Representatives.

For more information please contact Senator Gobi's office at 617-722-1540.

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