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## **PRESS RELEASE**

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### **Senators Anne Gobi and Colleagues Announce Funding for Buy Local Projects in FY16 Budget**

**BOSTON** – State Senator Anne M. Gobi (D-Spencer) is happy to announce that she and her colleagues adopted a budget amendment securing \$300,000 in funding for Buy Local efforts in the Commonwealth during last week’s Senate budget debate. The amendment includes funding for efforts in Central, Western, Northeastern and Southern Massachusetts and also includes new language providing for locally harvested seafood to be included.

“Everyone benefits from local farm products,” said Senator Gobi. “The recent addition of Central Mass Grown to the list of buy local groups is helping to add to our local economy as farmers markets are getting into full swing.”

"Buy Local efforts across western Massachusetts promote healthy eating and support local farmers," said Senator Benjamin B. Downing (D- Pittsfield). "I am proud to partner with Senator Gobi to secure financial assistance in the Senate budget for programs like Berkshire Grown, who help us all live healthier lifestyles."

“Our colleagues recognized that the Buy Local effort is a win for everyone,” said Bruce Tarr, Senate Minority Leader (R-Gloucester). “Local suppliers can market locally harvested foods to customers who know that they are getting the best that’s available.”

Sen. Gobi has long advocated for local agricultural initiatives as the current Senate Chair of the Environment, Natural Resources and Agriculture Committee and as House Chair of the Committee in the previous two legislative sessions. She brings fourteen years of budget experience in the Massachusetts House of Representatives to her first budget debate as State Senator of the Worcester, Hampden, Hampshire and Middlesex District.

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