



# MASSACHUSETTS GENERAL COURT

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## MEDIA RELEASE

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Sen. Gobi Contact: Brian Ferrarese  
Tel. (617) 722-1540

Sen. Moore Contact: Zachary Tsetsos  
Tel. (617) 722-1485

### **Senators Gobi and Moore work to restore Stiles Reservoir**

BOSTON – Senators Anne M. Gobi (D-Spencer) and Michael O. Moore (D-Millbury) submitted a letter to Governor Baker and several agency heads to request that funding authorized by the 2014 Environmental Bond Bill be released for the purpose of repairing the dam at Stiles Reservoir.

In June 2014, the Office of Dam Safety officially designated the condition of the dam as a public health and safety risk to the 215 households within the Water District and the surrounding community.

The letter is one of a series of steps taken by both Legislators to secure critical funding to repair structural deteriorations to the dam wall. As Chair of the Joint Committee on the Environment, Natural Resources and Agriculture, Sen.Gobi was directly involved with securing language that would authorize \$2 million within the 2014 Environmental Bond Bill for repairs and improvements to the dam. Both Sen. Moore and Sen. Gobi ushered the funding authorization through the Senate, and successfully advocated for its incorporation within the final bill delivered to then-Governor Deval Patrick.

“Our natural resources are vitally important and I will continue to work with Senator Moore, the legislative delegation, the good people on Stiles and the administration in trying to come to a solution that allows the full use and enjoyment of the water while balancing public safety concerns,” said Sen. Gobi.

More recently, both Senate offices partook in meetings with area State Representatives, residents of the Water District, and staff from Executive Office of Energy and Environmental Affairs to discuss the project’s unique circumstances and significance.

Shortly after the meeting, Sen. Gobi and Sen. Moore announced that \$50,000 had been secured for the Water District to make preliminary engineering plans and repairs to the dam. While this most recent release of funds is a step in the right direction, both Senators acknowledge how much work is left to be done.

“Senator Gobi and I will continue to encourage the Administration to release additional funding to restore the Stiles Reservoir to its full potential as a vibrant aquatic resource,” said Sen. Moore. “While we were pleased to help secure the \$50,000 to assist with immediate engineering expenses, we recognize that additional aid is required in order for the dam to meet functional and safety standards.”

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