

COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS
MASSACHUSETTS HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
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PRESS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

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Gobi Announces Release of Environmental Bond Bill Out of House

(BOSTON)— State Representative Anne Gobi (D-Spencer) House Chair of the Environment, Natural Resources, and Agriculture Committee joined her House colleagues on voting in favor of the Environmental Bond Bill. As House Chair, Representative Gobi travelled throughout the state to meet with other legislators and their constituents on projects and environmental issues important to them. The bond bill was a result of numerous meetings and public hearings.

The \$1.746 billion bill provides for the authorization of state funds for environmental projects and initiatives statewide such as, water and air quality protection, coastal and inland waterways, reforestation and tree planting, expansion of energy efficiency and renewable energy programs, implementation of farm viability plans promoting urban agriculture, recreational trails, and assistance to communities for solid waste, recycling, and hazardous waste recycling programs. Rep. Gobi commented that, "Investments in our environment are important to maintain the quality of life that we have and have enhanced our cultural and recreational opportunities, they are a major driver of our tourism industry, protects prime agricultural and timber lands and better management of solid wastes saves our communities money and creates jobs."

Some of the projects featured in this bill are:

- \$150,000,000 for DCR public facilities, including forests, parks, skating rinks, swimming pools, as well as local projects
- \$35,000,000 for Landscape Partnership Grant Program

- \$5,000,000 for the Stockbridge School of Agriculture at UMass Amherst and for coordination among agricultural schools to promote agriculture and related agriculture issues
- \$60,000,000 for the design, construction, reconstruction, improvement or rehabilitation of coastal and inland waterways

Representative Gobi also obtained funding for local projects including:

- \$6,000,000 for the Town of Charlton for the construction of a public water supply source
- \$5,000,000 for dredging project on Lake Wickaboag in West Brookfield
- \$4,400,000 for Whitney Pond Dam in Winchendon
- \$100,000 for handicap access improvements to the Woodward Fishing area on South Pond in Brookfield
- \$80,000 for Thompson Pond and \$50,000 for Stiles Pond in Spencer

The Bond Bill was engrossed by the Massachusetts House of Representatives on Wednesday and will now be heard before the Massachusetts Senate. This is the first step in making funds available for environmental initiatives and projects statewide.

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