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PRESS RELEASE

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Senator 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 enacted the fiscal year 2016 budget on Wednesday. Included in the spending bill is \$300,000 in funding for Buy Local efforts in the Commonwealth. Senator Gobi worked with Senator Bruce E. Tarr (R-Gloucester) to pass an amendment during Senate debate that includes funding for efforts in Central, Western, Northeastern and Southern Massachusetts and also includes new language providing for locally harvested seafood to be included.

“Getting fresh produce from the farm to table is much easier with funding to provide more opportunities for farmers to get the food to consumers,” said Senator Gobi. “The Buy Local effort is going strong and I am proud to be a supporter.”

“Purchasing locally produced fruit, vegetables, other produce and seafood is not only a great way to help the local and state economies, it also gives a real boost to small businesses that are critical to our quality of life, and it promotes a healthy diet,” said Senator Bruce Tarr. “This modest investment of state funds will yield many, many benefits.”

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.

The budget now goes to Governor Baker’s desk where he has the option to veto sections of the bill or sign it as is.

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