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## **PRESS RELEASE**

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### **Senator Anne Gobi Secures FY16 Funding for Charlton Planning Grant**

**BOSTON** – Senator Anne M. Gobi (D-Spencer) is happy to announce that House and Senate approved the FY16 budget today. Included in the final version is funding for a Charlton Planning Grant. The funding is for \$30,000 and was advocated for by Senator Gobi in the Senate version of the budget.

These funds will be expended as a planning grant for the town for a new water system. Senator Gobi was previously able to secure funding for this project in the 2014 Environmental Bond Bill, but these funds will go towards the design and commencement of the project.

“I appreciate working with the town on this important project,” said Senator Gobi. “A clean water source is critical for, people, economic development and the environment and it begins with a comprehensive study that these funds will provide.”

“Charlton will use the grant to begin the first phase of a Water Master Plan which will look at Charlton’s future water needs in all areas of Town,” noted Charlton’s Town Administrator Robin Craver.

“Unfortunately, Charlton has considerable contamination in certain areas due to gasoline leaks, salt contamination and natural causes such as arsenic. Now that Charlton has 500,000 gpd from the Town of Southbridge, the next step is to look at other areas of town and how we might be able to supply those critical areas as well. We are very appreciative of the efforts of Senator Anne Gobi for supporting this funding in the Senate and joint committee’s FY16 budget.

The Town of Charlton is in desperate need of a new water system for both public safety and economic development reasons. Many of the homeowners in the Town have wells that are contaminated with arsenic and road salt run-off but won’t get them inspected because they can’t afford to clean and/or replace them. Rt. 20 is also a very popular cut-around route for the Mass Pike, but businesses will not go there because

they don't want to foot the bill for water connectivity, leaving a major roadway in the Commonwealth economically underutilized.

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