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PRESS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

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Gobi, Harrington and Smola Announce Grants for Recycling, Composting and Waste Reduction

(Boston) – Senator Anne M. Gobi (D-Spencer), Rep. Sheila C. Harrington (R-Groton) and Representative Todd M. Smola (R-Warren) announced today that the Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection (MassDEP) has awarded grants for targeted small scale initiatives to the towns of Ashby, Athol, Barre, North Brookfield, Phillipston and Sturbridge. The grants will increase the diversion, reuse, composting and recycling of materials in the solid waste stream.

The grants are funded through the Sustainable Materials Recovery Program (SMRP), which was created under the Green Communities Act and is administered by MassDEP. The SMRP offers funding for recycling, composting, reuse and source reduction activities that will reduce the amount of waste disposed of in landfills and incinerators. Waste prevention and recycling reduces greenhouse gas emissions by capturing the embodied energy in everyday product and packaging waste, and converting these sources into new products with a smaller carbon footprint.

“I would like to commend the Baker-Polito Administration on their continued support of the environment,” said **Senator Anne M. Gobi (D-Spencer), Senate Chair of the Joint Committee on Environment, Natural Resources and Agriculture**. “Promoting recycling is important to a sustainable future.”

“I am grateful to the Baker-Polito Administration and MassDEP for awarding these grants to assist with recycling, composting and waste reduction,” said **Representative Sheila C. Harrington (R-Groton)**.

“These new funds will allow Sturbridge to expand on their already exemplary recycling and waste reduction efforts,” said **Representative Todd M. Smola (R-Warren)**. “This is a great example of state and local government working together to protect the environment.”

The grants include:

- \$1,800 to the Town of Ashby;
- \$1,400 to the Town of Athol;
- \$1,800 to the Town of Barre;
- \$2,200 to the Town of North Brookfield
- \$1,400 to the Town of Phillipston; and
- \$3,200 to the Town of Sturbridge.

MassDEP is responsible for ensuring clean air and water, safe management and recycling of solid and hazardous wastes, timely cleanup of hazardous waste sites and spills, and the preservation of wetlands and coastal resources.

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