



The Commonwealth of Massachusetts
House of Representatives
State House, Boston 02133-1054

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Smola supports House environmental bond bill

BOSTON – Representative Todd M. Smola (R-Warren, Ranking Member, Committee on Ways & Means) joined his colleagues in the House of Representatives to approve a comprehensive bond bill to support a variety of local and statewide environmental initiatives. The bill provides a five-year blueprint for environmental spending by the state with resources committed to rivers and wetlands, as well as critical infrastructure such as dams, seawalls, jetties, and retaining walls.

"This legislation makes significant investments that will help to support state and local environmental projects," said Representative Smola. "The bond bill puts a plan in place that will advance our commitment to the environment and protect resources like our wetlands and parks. Our mission is to continue to make progress on our agenda to promote a healthy environment for future generations."

The bill includes \$420 million in funding for the preservation of state-owned forests, parks, campgrounds and reservations around the Commonwealth. It also provides \$55 million for the Department of Transportation's Complete Streets Program, which offers technical assistance and construction funding to help municipalities reduce traffic congestion and make local roadways safer for pedestrians, bicyclists and motorists. The bill also requires state agencies to publish an integrated state climate adaptation and hazard mitigation plan every five years and creates a new Transfer of Development Rights (TDR) program within EEA, along with a revolving fund to finance municipal loans. This program will help cities and towns protect local resources by allowing communities to purchase a conservation restriction on one parcel of land and then sell the development rights to the developer of a second parcel.

For additional information please contact Representative Smola at Todd.Smola@mahouse.gov or (617)722-2100.

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