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PRESS RELEASE

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SENATE PASSES BILL TO ESTABLISH INTERIM GREENHOUSE GAS EMISSIONS LIMITS, CLIMATE CHANGE ADAPTATION MANAGEMENT PLAN

BOSTON— Senator Anne M. Gobi (D-Spencer) is happy to announce that yesterday, the Massachusetts State Senate passed S.2092, a bill to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and develop a long-term, comprehensive adaptation management action plan to address the consequences of climate change in the Commonwealth. Senator Gobi serves as Senate Chair of the Joint Committee on the Environment, Natural Resources and Agriculture.

“As Chair of the Environment, Natural Resources and Agriculture Committee, I was glad to move this bill favorably from committee,” said **Senator Gobi**. “The bill received complete bi-partisan support and is a priority for sustainability and working towards reducing greenhouse emissions along with increasing our renewable energy capacity.”

Sponsored by **Senate President Pro Tempore Marc R. Pacheco** (D-Taunton), chairman of the Senate Committee on Global Warming and Climate Change, the bill sets in place an emissions limit for 2030 between 35 and 45 percent below the 1990 emissions level and an emissions limit for 2040 between 55 and 65 percent below the 1990 emissions level.

These interim requirements would be accompanied by plans to achieve these limits, maximizing the ability of the Commonwealth to meet the 2050 statewide greenhouse gas emissions limits already in place through the Global Warming Solutions Act.

“The passing of this bill further establishes Massachusetts as a leader in innovative climate policy that strengthens our environment, economy and infrastructure,” **Sen. Pacheco** said. “We need to meet the requirements of the Global Warming Solutions Act. Just last week, NASA and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration informed us that 2015 was the hottest year in historical record. The second

hottest is 2014. There is no time to waste – not for our environment, not for public health and not for our economy. If gone unchecked, severe weather will wreak immense havoc on current and future generations.”

And for the second time, the Senate passed a comprehensive climate change adaptation management plan for the Commonwealth, previously passed in July, but removed from legislative action by the House of Representatives.

"We applaud the Senate for taking action to protect the public from the effects of climate change," said **Jeff Seyler**, president & CEO of the **American Lung Association of the Northeast**. "Achieving our interim emission goals in 2030 and beyond is critical for the health of our lungs as both the particle pollution from emissions and rising temperatures which aid in the creation of ozone will only continue to harm the most vulnerable among us. We urge the subsequently formed comprehensive adaptation management action plan advisory commission to include health impacts in their assessment."

A comprehensive adaptation management action plan would be established through a collaboration led by the Secretary of Energy and Environmental Affairs and the Secretary of Public Safety and Security. The plan would codify for the Baker Administration and all future administrations the goals, priorities and principles for resiliency, preservation, protection, restoration and enhancement of the Commonwealth's built and natural infrastructure, based on data around existing and projected climate change impacts including temperature changes, drought, inland flooding and sea level rise. Through the legislation, a comprehensive adaptation management action plan advisory committee would be established through the Executive Office of Energy and Environmental Affairs and the Executive Office of Public Safety and Security. The committee would be charged with producing a report that documents the preparedness and vulnerabilities in the Commonwealth's emergency response, energy, transportation, communications, health and other systems. The group would also put forth a proposal that establishes and commits to sound management practices while compiling data on existing and projected sea-level rise using the best available science.

“The recent Paris Climate Agreement to reduce emissions has put climate change at the forefront of international issues. We believe it is essential for us to act right now, at least on the key issues of adapting to the potential change, being ready for them and reducing emissions,” said **Senate President Stan Rosenberg** (D-Amherst). “Senator Pacheco's bill once again puts Massachusetts in a leadership role on a critical issue. If we don't plan and adapt for climate change now, we will pay dearly down the road, both in terms of potential harm to our residents and in dollars we will have to spend. This bill creates a proactive, long-term strategy to deal with the realities of our changing climate.”

The legislation also establishes a regional, comprehensive climate change adaptation management plan grant program to aid in the development of regional adaptation plans. The bill also creates a coastal buy-back program authorizing the Executive Office of Energy and Environmental Affairs to acquire, by voluntary purchase, property abutting areas subject to tides or barrier beaches or located in velocity zones of flood plain areas that contain structures repeatedly damaged by severe weather. The plan would go into effect in 2018, with an update every 10 years.

“Massachusetts is on an ambitious path to energy independence through the generation of renewables evolving policy,” said **Senate Minority Leader Bruce Tarr** (R-Gloucester). “Yet, in order to have the greatest chance of success in achieving independence and reducing greenhouse gas emissions, we need concrete and measureable benchmarks to guide the way. This bill provides them.

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