

Commonwealth Report

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A
Newsletter
for the
Citizens of
the First
Plymouth
and Bristol
District

Inside this issue

The Global Warming Solutions Act	2
Life Sciences Bill	3
Azores Trade Mission	4
Snow and Ice Funding	5

Greetings From Senator Pacheco!

Welcome to the February/March edition of the **Commonwealth Report!**

I hope you are enjoying the transition to spring. As always, we are busy here on Beacon Hill!

This month the Senate approved key legislation, including the Global Warming Solutions Act and the Life Sciences Bill that would provide \$10 million for a life science/education training

center right here in the city of Taunton.

Solutions to the global warming crisis were also a hot topic during a recent trade mission to the Azores with Congressman Frank and other leaders from throughout the Commonwealth, as we forged new economic and environmental partnerships with Azorean leaders.

I hope you enjoy this month's edition of

The Commonwealth Report and please tune in to hear the latest updates from Beacon Hill aired on the radio version of the Commonwealth Report broadcast on WBVF 1530 AM at 10:30 a.m. on Monday and Friday.

I look forward to hearing from you.

All the best!



Senator Pacheco Receives 100 Percent on Mass Audubon's Legislative Report Card

Senator Pacheco, chairman of the Senate Committee on Global Warming and Climate Change, received a score of 100 percent on Mass Audubon Society's Senate Report Card for his steadfast dedication to legislation protecting the environment.

The Mass Audubon Society, the largest conservation organization in New England, determined the score by evaluating the roll call votes on environmental bills and budget items. In 2007, the

Senate voted on 14 environmental roll call votes, according to the Mass Audubon Society.

Senator Pacheco, who is also vice-chair of the Joint Committee on the Environment, Natural Resources, and Agriculture, was one of only a handful of senators to receive the 100 percent rating. The average score for the Senate was 94 percent.

A longtime environmental advocate, Senator Pacheco has received the honor of a

100 percent rating nine times since beginning his service in the Senate in 1993.

"I am honored to have received such great recognition from the Mass Audubon Society," said Senator Pacheco. "I look forward to continue working with my colleagues in the Senate to approve legislation to ensure the preservation and protection of the environment and economy of Massachusetts for future generations."

Senate Approves Global Warming Solutions Act

Implements far-reaching greenhouse gas reductions; Positions Massachusetts as a leader in reducing global warming impacts

In March, the Senate approved The Global Warming Solutions Act to protect the Commonwealth's economy and environment from the negative impacts of global warming and climate change.

Passage of this bill, sponsored by Senator Pacheco, positions Massachusetts as a national and international leader in climate change solutions.

The Global Warming Solutions Act (S. 2531) would establish far-reaching greenhouse gas reductions, spur job creation throughout the Commonwealth and secure a competitive edge for Massachusetts in the budding "green" economy, a multi-billion dollar industry.

"The Global Warming Solutions Act establishes the framework and far-reaching reduction standards necessary to preserve and protect the Commonwealth's environment and economy for future generations," said Senator

Pacheco, Chairman of the Senate Committee on Global Warming and Climate Change. "This legislation will secure a competitive edge for Massachusetts in the new "green" economy, sending a strong message to investors, entrepreneurs, and developers worldwide that Massachusetts is committed to being a leader in global warming and climate change solutions."

The bill would require a cap on greenhouse gas emissions from all sources and implements a framework that would reduce greenhouse gas emissions 20 percent by 2020 and 80 percent by 2050, based on 1990 levels.

In order to meet these standards, the bill authorizes state agencies to adopt regulations that reduce energy use, increase efficiency and encourage renewable energy sources in the sectors of energy generation, buildings and transportation. The legislation requires the Department of Environmental Pro-

tection to establish a state-wide registry of facilities that emit greenhouse gases.

Additional provisions of the bill include requirements for power plants to meet a standard of 1,100 pounds of carbon dioxide emissions per mega-watt hour for approval of construction or expansion projects, and the requirement that the DEP must adopt a Low Carbon Fuel Standard for motor vehicle fuels, in collaboration with our state partners in the Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative, to ensure a 10 percent reduction in carbon content by 2020.

"We applaud the Senate for passing this groundbreaking global warming bill that will propel Massachusetts to a nation-leading role in addressing the most significant environmental threat of our generation," said Sue Reid, Director of Massachusetts Clean Energy and Climate Change Initiative, Conservation Law Foundation.

Senate Approves \$10 Million for Life Sciences Center in the city of Taunton

In March, the Senate approved an amendment to provide \$10 million in the Life Sciences bill for a life science/education training center at the former Paul A. Dever State School in the city of Taunton.

The Senate built upon and strengthened the House version of the bill, setting far-reaching goals to ensure accountability, safeguard benefits and promote job growth in the Commonwealth.

“I am pleased to announce that the Senate secured \$10 million for a life science/education training center located in Taunton that will spur economic development and job growth throughout the region,” said Senator Pacheco. “The life

science/education training center will be vital in training qualified workers for jobs throughout Southeastern Massachusetts.”

The amendment, sponsored by Senator Pacheco, would provide funding for the design, construction, development and related infrastructure improvements for a life science/education training center at the former Paul A. Dever State School in Taunton.

A 13-member board of directors would manage the life sciences/education training center, which would include an education and training facility, and a laboratory research facility with state-of-the-art equip-

ment offering research and development facilities for collaboration with industry partners.

The \$1 billion Life Sciences bill also pledges \$500 million in capital funding for infrastructure improvements including life sciences construction and improvement projects.

The bill also would provide \$250 million in authorized tax incentives for life sciences companies that promote job growth throughout the Commonwealth, and \$250 million for research grants.

The bill will now go to the House of Representatives.

Trade Mission Opens Doors, Creates New Opportunities

Climate impacts in the North Atlantic Ocean could provide key insights to climate change problems here in Massachusetts.

This month, Senator Pacheco joined the 57-member trade delegation, led by Congressman Barney Frank, to the Azores to secure partnership agreements with Azorean officials.

During this recent trade mission, the Commonwealth's top leaders in higher education, business and policymaking, formed new partnerships and built upon existing ties with Azorean leaders.

Leaders from both countries signed agreements that would develop student and teacher exchange programs, promote the research of climate change and fisheries, and enhance communication between the two countries.

"This trade mission was a great success, al-

lowing us to lay the foundation for what will be a very strong bridge of communication, cooperation and innovative research, between Massachusetts and the Azores," said Senator Pacheco, Chairman of the Senate Committee on Global Warming and Climate Change. "The negative effects of climate change impact countries across the globe and demand universal solutions."

On February 25, Senator Pacheco and other trade delegation members convened at UMass Dartmouth to announce the economic, educational and environmental partnership agreements formed between the Azores, UMass Dartmouth and southeastern Massachusetts.

The UMass Dartmouth School for Marine Science and Technology, a leader in the study of marine fisheries, is positioned to benefit from the

exchange of ideas and research about climate and fisheries in the North Atlantic.

Enhancing communication between the countries, Massachusetts leaders signed an agreement that would help the Azorean government digitize materials at the Ferreira Mendes Portuguese Archives.

"The Azores is a country rich in history and culture, which can now be shared through electronic archives with the rest of the world," said Senator Pacheco.

Other members of the trade delegation included UMass Dartmouth Chancellor Jean MacCormack, Bristol Community College President Jack Sbrega, Representative Antonio Cabral (D-New Bedford), and Representative Michael Rodrigues (D-Westport).

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Currently, Senator Pacheco is the Chairman of the Senate Committee on Post Audit and Oversight and Chairman of the newly created Senate Committee on Global Warming and Climate Change. He is also the Vice Chair of the Joint Committee on the Environment, Natural Resources and Agriculture and Vice Chair of the Joint Committee on Health Care Financing.. In addition, he is a member of the Senate Committee on Ways and Means and the Joint Committee on Telecommunications, Utilities and Energy. During his tenure in the Senate, Senator Pacheco has chaired the Joint Committees on Commerce and Labor, State Administration, Health Care and Natural Resources and Agriculture.

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Senator Pacheco Supports Snow and Ice Plow Drivers

In February, Senator Pacheco addressed more than 300 snowplow operators in Raynham to show support in the fight to recover more than \$69 million owed to Massachusetts snow plow drivers for their work this winter.

“Each year snow plow drivers are confronted with the same problem and it is time we develop a permanent solution,” said Senator Pacheco. “When people complete work, they

should get paid for the work they do. It’s just common sense.”

On March 21 Lieutenant Governor Tim Murray signed an \$89 million supplemental budget bill appropriating \$67.5 million to pay for snow and ice removal costs.

Senator Pacheco said legislation should be set in place to solve the problem and ensure that snowplow drivers receive adequate and timely payments each year. Senator

Pacheco said the amount of funding set aside in the budget for the snowplow drivers should be determined using a five-year average.

“The job performed by snowplow drivers is vital to ensuring the public’s safety during the wintry months,” said Senator Pacheco. “It is imperative that we secure funding in the budget so that the snowplow drivers receive the monies they deserve annually.”