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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Senator Baddour creates the Salisbury Beach Preservation Trust Fund

Dedicates a portion of the revenue collected from beach-goers to long-term beach maintenance

May 22, 2008, Boston - Senator Steven A. Baddour (D-Methuen) announced the creation and inclusion of a Salisbury Beach Preservation Trust Fund in the Senate budget.

As the result of multiple catastrophic storms over the last two years, residents of Salisbury Beach have been faced with tremendous concerns regarding their well-being, the safety of their property, and the viability of the local economy due to erosion and debris on the beach.

Breaches in multiples dunes have flooded many roads and neighborhoods, preventing access to emergency vehicles, businesses, and homes. Along the beach, eroded sand dunes caused the formation of dangerous twelve-foot precipices and triggered fear that some homes would collapse in to the ocean. After last year's Patriot's Day Nor'easter, a federal disaster declaration was issued and the Department of Conservation and Recreation purchased and installed 20,000 cubic yards of sand to shore up properties and secure numerous access points at a cost of about \$1 million.

"The creation of the Salisbury Beach Preservation Trust Fund will help ensure that residents and business owners will not have to rely on one-time or special state funding year-to-year to repair any damages, or to preserve and maintain the beach on a regular basis", said Senator Steven A. Baddour. "The new funding, combined with regular maintenance funds from the Department of Conservation and Recreation, will allow us to begin the long-overdue process of protecting this natural treasure."

As a result of the Legislative delegation's urging, the Department of Conservation and Recreation released the Salisbury Beach Management Plan detailing a short-term response protocol and a long-

term disaster relief management to address the effects of coastal erosion on Salisbury Beach. However, the report does not go far enough to rescue the beach from its current state of erosion.

Tourism is Salisbury's largest industry and the Salisbury Beach Reservation and its associated parking lot are the top two revenue producers for the Department of Conservation and Recreation annually. A \$2.00 surcharge will be added to the parking and camping fee to capitalize the newly created trust fund from which monies will be allocated.

On average, 75,000 cars park at the Salisbury Beach Reservation parking lot during a typical summer, generating \$525,000 annually. Revenue from the Reservation's 500 campsite units generates approximately \$1 million. Adding a \$2.00 surcharge to the parking and camping fee will generate approximately \$250,000 for the trust fund annually.

Baddour noted, "Given the amount of money that is made off the beach, it is only appropriate that a portion of it be set aside to preserve the beach itself."

"The establishment of this funding mechanism is not only important to preserving Salisbury Beach as an asset for our region, it's also an important component of regional efforts to manage and conserve our precious sand resources", said Senator Bruce Tarr (R-Gloucester) who co-sponsored the amendment.

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