



COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS

GENERAL COURT

STATE HOUSE, BOSTON 02133-1053

Contact:
Jeevan Ramapriya
Office of Senator Baddour
617-722-1604

Contact:
Adam Martignetti
Office of Representative Costello
617-722-2230

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Baddour, Costello seek funding for air quality monitoring and odor management at the Newburyport Landfill

\$1 million sought to mitigate toxic fumes emanating from Crow Lane Landfill

July 17, 2008, (Boston, MA) – Senator Steven A. Baddour (D-Methuen) and Representative Michael A. Costello (D-Newburyport) announced today that they have secured \$1 million for air quality monitoring and odor management at the Crow Lane Landfill in the City of Newburyport.

Since New Ventures Associates, LLC (“New Ventures”) took control of the Crow Lane landfill in 2000, the residents of Newburyport have endured years of noxious fumes and emissions from the site. The company has been slow to cap the landfill and has not adequately addressed numerous complaints brought upon by its neighbors. In addition, problematic activities by New Ventures have forced the Attorney General and the Department of Environmental Protection to file a preliminary injunction against the company to close the landfill.

In 2006, the Department of Environmental Protection released the final results of air quality tests conducted at the Crow Lane Landfill. The report confirmed preliminary results which showed that the levels of the gas hydrogen sulfide (H₂S) at several sites around the landfill are at levels that can cause headaches, nausea and other health ailments. The report is available at the DEP’s website – <http://www.mass.gov/dep/about/region/northeas.htm#facilities>.

“Over the last several years, I have received hundreds of emails and phone calls detailing various health issues associated with the landfill smell”, Baddour said. “Despite numerous interventions by the Attorney General and the Department of Environmental Protection, toxic fumes that continue to emanate from the site demonstrate that the landfill is a public health hazard and that remedial measures must be taken immediately.”

“When the Governor visited Amesbury last month, he told the residents who live around the landfill and he told Senator Baddour and I that he wanted to help with the landfill situation,” said Representative Costello. “This money is a financial resource that will enable the Patrick Administration to provide some help in the form of better monitoring and better mitigation measures.”

Baddour and Costello have included the funding in an environmental bond bill (H. 5054) used for the preservation and improvement of land, parks and clean energy in the Commonwealth. The bill is now before the Governor’s desk for his approval.

###