



COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS
MASSACHUSETTS SENATE
STATE HOUSE, BOSTON 02133-1053

SENATOR STEVEN A. BADDOUR

FIRST ESSEX DISTRICT
ROOM 513, STATE HOUSE
TEL. (617) 722-1604
FAX. (617) 722-1999
Steven.Baddour@state.ma.us

April 24, 2007

CHAIRMAN:
TRANSPORTATION

VICE-CHAIRMAN:
THE JUDICIARY

MEMBER:
POST AUDIT & OVERSIGHT
CHILDREN & FAMILIES
ELECTION LAWS
MUNICIPALITIES & REGIONAL GOVERNMENT

Ms. Priscilla E. Geigis
Acting Commissioner
Department of Conservation and Recreation
251 Causeway Street, Suite 600
Boston, MA 02114-2104

Dear Commissioner Geigis,

As a result of the heavy rainfall and high tidal surges that Massachusetts experienced during the week of Patriot's Day, we would like to bring to your attention serious environmental and economic development issues that have arisen in the Town of Salisbury due to the Nor'easter.

Breaches in multiple dunes have flooded many roads and neighborhoods, preventing access to emergency vehicles, businesses, and residents. Along the beach, eroded sand dunes are causing the formation of dangerous twelve-foot precipices and triggering some homes to collapse in to the ocean.

As you know, tourism is Salisbury's largest industry and, as the summer approaches, our beach is in shambles — without action, dune erosion will quickly damage the local economy. Salisbury is a traditional working-class community dependent on a beach that can attract tourists and sustain the Town's economy, not to mention that of the Greater Merrimack Valley.

Residents at the South End of the beach are trying band together to perform an emergency dune restoration project. They need financial and other assistance, including the consent of DCR to permit them to work on the State Beach and to have part of the sacrificial dune on state property. If the sacrificial dune is not built quickly, it will be too late to plant dune grass this year.

We are hereby respectfully requesting that the Department of Conservation and Recreation provide much needed assistance to the Town of Salisbury by replenishing sand and reconstructing the sand dunes on the beach. Inaction in this situation risks the public safety, and environmental and economic vitality of greater Salisbury.

Thank you for your time and consideration. Please do not hesitate to contact either of us if we can provide additional assistance on this or any other matter.

Regards,

Steven A. Baddour
State Senator
First Essex District

Michael A. Costello
State Representative
First Essex District

