



Commonwealth of Massachusetts

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Senator Baddour to speak at National Conference of State Legislatures

Baddour tapped to discuss state of ports and the Big Dig

July 31, 2007, Boston – As the Senate chair of the Joint Committee of Transportation, Senator Steven A. Baddour (D-Methuen) was asked by the National Conference of State Legislatures to speak at two panel discussions during the upcoming annual summit, “Strong States Strong Nation 2007” taking place in Boston. Over 7,000 conferees are expected to attend the week-long event.

“The Big Dig: Uncovered,” taking place on Wednesday, August 8, 2007, will be a panel focusing on the lessons other states can learn in terms of avoiding cost overruns and engineering challenges that Massachusetts has faced as the result of the Big Dig when exploring similar projects.

Since chairing the oversight hearings regarding the Big Dig, Senator Baddour has continued to provide state leadership on these issues. In 2003, he successfully led a bipartisan effort extending the statute of limitations to allow for claims arising out of contracts for the planning, design and/or construction of the project to 10 years from the date that the problems were discovered. He also helped negotiate a single point of cost recovery for the state, ensuring that the Commonwealth had the most effective negotiating stand possible as they began talks with Big Dig contractors. In 2006, he filed legislation that would require state agencies and authorities to hire an independent engineer, or owner’s representative, for any major public construction project. Earlier this month, Baddour also called for debarment of Bechtel Parsons

Brinckerhoff as a result of the findings released in a report conducted by the National Transportation Safety Board.

“I am eager to help provide other legislators and interested parties from across the country with some background and insight into the Big Dig – what went wrong, how we’ve started to fix it, and what could be done better in future project to assist not only Massachusetts, but other states that are exploring similarly large projects,” said Senator Baddour.

Baddour will also be speaking at the “Waterways and Ports Educational Session” on Monday August 6, 200, which will be focusing on issues such as the harbor tax, congestion, intermodalism and other topics relevant to the future of U.S. ports and waterways.

If you are interested in attending or need more information, please contact Eleni Varitimos at 617-722-1604 or eleni.varitimos@state.ma.us

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