



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

**SENATOR STEVEN A. BADDOUR**

FIRST ESSEX DISTRICT  
ROOM 208

TEL. (617) 722-1604

FAX. (617) 722-1999

E-Mail: Steven.Baddour@state.ma.us

**CHAIRMAN:**

TRANSPORTATION

**VICE-CHAIRMAN:**

THE JUDICIARY

**MEMBER:**

WAYS AND MEANS  
POST AUDIT AND OVERSIGHT  
MUNICIPALITIES AND REGIONAL  
GOVERNMENT

**Contact:**

Jeevan Ramapriya

Office of Senator Baddour

617-722-1604

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

July 22, 2008

## **Baddour Votes for Sales Tax Holiday**

*August 16<sup>th</sup> & 17<sup>th</sup> set for tax exemption weekend*

(Boston, MA) – The Senate on Tuesday approved an August sales tax holiday weekend for 2008, making it the fourth year the Commonwealth will provide a sales tax exemption for an entire weekend, and the fifth year that at least one tax free day has been approved.

Senate President Therese Murray (D-Plymouth) announced her support for another tax free weekend back on June 12 during a speech before the Greater Boston Chamber of Commerce:

“We should preserve our trust with the taxpayers and approve another sales tax holiday this year,” the President said at the time. “The sales tax holiday would be welcomed more than ever in this difficult economy, providing consumers with some necessary relief while boosting sales and consumer confidence.”

This year’s tax free weekend will be August 16<sup>th</sup> and 17<sup>th</sup>. As in previous years, almost all purchases under \$2,500 will be tax-free. Vehicles, motorized boats, tobacco, meals and utilities are excluded.

The Senate has consistently supported a sales tax holiday, citing the bump in sales for local businesses as an economic plus that outweighs any cost to the Commonwealth. The weekends benefit large and small retail businesses alike, and they are especially helpful to parents making larger school purchases, such as computers, for their children.

“Since its inception in 2004, sales tax holiday weekends have helped jumpstart our economy and have pumped millions of dollars in to our local retail establishments,” said Senator Steven A. Baddour (D - Methuen). “Retailers in border communities such as Methuen and Haverhill struggle every day against New Hampshire businesses. This gives them an equal playing field to attract shoppers and compete for business during their traditionally slowest sales period.”

Last year’s tax free weekend produced nearly \$500 million in sales.

The bill will now go to the Governor for his signature.

####