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THE GENERAL COURT
STATE HOUSE, BOSTON 02133-1053

Contact:
Tom LoBianco
Office of Senator Baddour
617-722-1604

Adam Martignetti
Office of Representative Costello
617-722-2575

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**Sen. Baddour, Rep. Costello, Harbor Commission and MBTA announce
Salisbury Riverfront Recreational Facility**

Proposed development would open Merrimac River to kayakers, tourists

September, 18, 2006, SALISBURY – State lawmakers, the MBTA and the Salisbury Harbor Commission announced plans today for the development of a new riverfront recreational facility.

Sen. Steven A. Baddour (D-Methuen), Rep. Michael Costello (D-Salisbury), the Massachusetts Bay Transportation Authority and the Salisbury Harbor Commission announced plans to develop a 60' x 600' foot parcel on the Merrimac River for recreational use and public access to the river.

"I'm proud to support this great project which will turn a vacant patch of land into a thriving, public boating facility," Sen. Baddour said. "The Riverfront Recreational Facility capitalizes on the ongoing economic growth of Salisbury by drawing in new faces and enhancing the quality of life for current residents. This is a wonderful project."

The new facility would be located adjacent to the MBTA rail bed, off of Fredenfels Road, and include dock space for 40 dinghies, parking for 25-30 cars, and an operation center for the Salisbury Harbor Master. A small ramp for the public will be included for launching kayaks, canoes and small rowboats would be.

"The Merrimac River is a natural treasure that all should be able to enjoy," Rep. Costello said. "I am glad we were able to partner with the MBTA to expand public access to the river for boaters, kayakers and canoeists. I also want to thank the Salisbury Harbor Commission for its work in moving this proposal forward."

"The MBTA prides itself on working with its member communities on important projects such as this," said MBTA General Manager Dan Grabauskas. "The leadership that Senator Baddour and Representative Costello provided on this issue enabled the MBTA to allow this use on the right of way and also complement Salisbury's planned bike path along this corridor"

The new facility would be funded through user fees, to be set by the Salisbury Harbor Commission, and approved by the Salisbury Board of Selectman. It is estimated to cost between \$10,000 and \$15,000 to operate annually.

"This is a wonderful investment in our community and our natural resources," said Salisbury Harbor Commission Chairman Reginald Santos. "Creating this new access to the river will enhance recreation for Salisbury and the entire region."

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