

SOUTH SHORE
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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
May 29, 2007

Senators Meet with South Shore Municipal Waste Managers **Sen. Robert Creedon receives award**

East Bridgewater -- The South Shore Recycling Cooperative (SSRC) hosted a Legislative Breakfast that packed the room at Cameron's on the Green on May 18. **Senators Robert Creedon and Robert Hedlund, and Monica Mullin from Senate President Murray's office** met with over 30 municipal officials and volunteers. Senator Robert Creedon (D-Brockton) was awarded the SSRC's 2007 Environmental Hero award.

SSRC Chairman **Merle Brown** of Cohasset opened the event, and introduced guest speaker and SSRC's 2006 Environmental Hero Sen. Robert Hedlund (R-Weymouth).

Senator Hedlund discussed his own enlightenment about how much of his trash can be recycled in Weymouth, and lamented how much valuable material he sees being thrown away in his neighborhood. "I can see how Pay as you Throw, where residents pay for what they throw away, is a fair way to reduce waste." He also expressed dismay about the disincentives to citing people for littering, referring to himself as a "litter vigilante", and the phase-out of the Lottery's Instant RePlay program. He discussed this with Treasurer Cahill on WATD 95.9 FM on May 21. Senator Hedlund's proposed Updated Bottle Bill, S1935, also addresses beverage container litter, and is supported by the SSRC.

SSRC Executive Director **Claire Sullivan** demonstrated the importance of State leadership and funding by unveiling the logo for the upcoming statewide "Mass Recycles Paper!" campaign, which started as an SSRC pilot last year. "Massachusetts residents and businesses throw away over 1.5 million tons of good paper each year!", she exclaimed. "If we recycled 1 million tons a year, we'd save \$75M in disposal cost alone. And that paper is worth \$50-100/ton. We're throwing our money away." MassRecycle, of which she is President, is running the Campaign, and has raised \$50K from private sponsors, qualifying for a \$25K matching grant from MassDEP. Noting the importance of State grants, she outlined the Cooperative's legislative priorities, including increases in the state recycling budget, updating the Bottle Bill and end of life product responsibility by electronics manufacturers. She thanked Sen. Creedon and Hedlund for filing amendments to the Senate Ways and Means budget the day before to increase funding for recycling from the proposed \$2.0M.

SSRC Vice Chairman **Steven Herrmann** of Hanover presented **Sen. Robert Creedon** with the SSRC's sixth "Environmental Hero" award, noting his consistent support of state funding for waste reduction efforts. In addition to sponsoring a budget amendment the previous day, Sen. Creedon filed legislation to reinstate the Clean Environment Fund (S1923), dedicated to funding recycling and environmental programs from unclaimed bottle deposits. He also earned the distinction of being named to Mass League of Environmental Voters' Honor Roll in 2006. Sen. Creedon serves on the Environment Committee and is chairman of the Judiciary Committee.

In his acceptance speech, Sen. Creedon recalled how as a youth in Brockton, he returned “tonic” bottle for the deposit, the milkman brought back the empty containers for reuse, the “rag man” picked up metal, textiles and other waste items that still had some usefulness, and how he once held the glamorous job of collecting household kitchen scraps for the local piggery. “We need to invest in educating our neighbors about how and why we should waste less,” said Creedon, “and in making it easy to recycle.”

The SSRC helps its 15 member towns save money and to improve recycling and hazardous waste management through outreach, advocacy, regional contracts and waste reduction strategies. Member towns include Abington, Cohasset, Duxbury, Hanover, Hingham, Holbrook, Hull, Kingston, Marshfield, Norwell, Plymouth, Rockland, Scituate, Weymouth and Whitman.



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