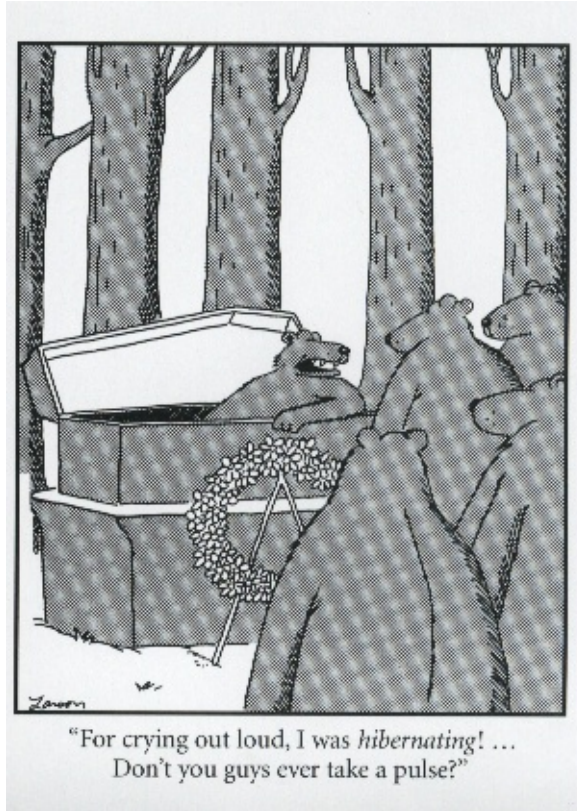

The Rosenberg Report

Vol. XLII
June 20, 2006



The e-mails, cards, prayers and good wishes are speeding my recovery.

Thanks!



June Focus

Fiscal '06 Supplemental Budget and Economic Stimulus Bill

On June 15th, legislative conference committees released the fiscal '06 supplemental budget and economic stimulus bills and each show that higher education is front and center among the state's priorities for boosting the state's economy and investing in the state's infrastructure.

I'm delighted that the Legislature has recognized that the success of our state economy will depend on our capacity for innovation, and that our public colleges and university campuses are the places to promote innovation. But I'm also pleased that these bills include several of my personal initiatives, projects that I created and have been working on for months, in some cases years.

For example, the supplemental budget includes:

\$200,000 for a public/private program of matching funds between the food science department of UMass-Amherst and private food industry businesses. The purpose of this program will be to establish research, scientific and regulatory frameworks to help create jobs and high-value products in the state's food producing industries.

\$13 million for the endowment incentive program to help the state's colleges and universities improve private fundraising and for capital outlays.

\$50 million for a reserve to fund capital projects at state and community colleges.

\$50 million for capital costs at University of Massachusetts campuses.

The economic stimulus bill includes \$20 million in bonding for the Integrated Science Building at UMass-Amherst, and language creating the Educational Rewards Grant Program fund that will provide grants to part-time students in accredited post-secondary certificate or vocational technology programs or associate degree programs in targeted high-demand occupations.

The economic stimulus bill also creates an agricultural procurement program, something I've been working on for several years with colleagues like State Representative Stephen Kulik (D-Worthington) and State Senator Stephen Brewer (D-Barre). This program will help ensure the continued availability of fresh local food, and the stewardship of some 570,000 acres of open space, by improving market connections between farmers and consumers, helping farmers succeed in the marketplace, providing incentives to preserve farmland for future generations and making Massachusetts a leader in family farm-oriented agricultural economic development.

Farming is not just a business; it's a way of life that maintains our open spaces and preserves the rural character of western Massachusetts. I'm proud to stand with my colleagues in this effort to help farmers and their families prosper.

Cultural Facilities/Regional Tourism Fund

The economic stimulus plan also includes \$13 million to improve the state's cultural and regional tourism facilities. I have been working on this program to make public investments in the state's cultural treasures for more than 10 years and I am very pleased that it is finally happening. Such investment is justified by the enormous contributions the arts make to the state's economy.

There's no question that arts and cultural facilities feed our economy. They are tools for economic development and community revitalization. But the arts also encourage

creative thinking and free expression. And that feeds the soul and, ultimately, helps strengthen our democracy.

The \$13 million earmark creates the Massachusetts Cultural Facilities Fund, within the Massachusetts Development Finance Agency, for grants and loans.

Noteworthy

Lilly Library/Bernache Road, Northampton

I am pleased to join State Representative Peter V. Kocot (D-Northampton) in announcing that supplemental budget also includes \$100,000 to provide additional funding to the Lilly Library reconstruction project and \$50,000 to study and prepare plans to repair drainage problems in the Federal Street and Bernache Street areas in Northampton.

Storm Road Repair

The supplemental budget also included the following earmarks to repair roads damaged by severe weather last July:

Leyden	\$125,000
Bernardston	\$125,000
Whately	\$70,000

I'm pleased that the Legislature has recognized the dire need for these funds. It's been great working with my colleagues in the House to make this happen and I hope this money improves the situation in these communities.

Buttery Brook Pool, South Hadley

I am pleased to join State Representative John Scibak (D-South Hadley) in announcing that the supplemental budget also includes \$1.75 million for improvements to the swimming pool at BATTERY Brook.

Windfall Profits Tax Resolution

On May 25th, the Massachusetts Senate approved a resolution I sponsored that calls on the federal government to “immediately institute a windfall profits tax on energy companies.”

I understand that there are many factors that contribute to energy prices, but I cannot reconcile the fact that energy companies are reaping record profits while low- and moderate-income residents and small businesses are suffering. Energy companies enjoy the best of everything this country has to offer and its time they gave something back. If they won't do it voluntarily, then government should compel them to do it. Enough is enough. I am proud that the Massachusetts Senate is joining the growing chorus of voices calling on the federal government to act on this matter, and act now.

The resolution was co-sponsored by 19 other Senators.

Co-Sponsors:

Robert A. Antonioni
Edward M. Augustus
Stephen M. Brewer
Stephen J. Buoniconti
Harriette L. Chandler
Robert S. Creedon
Susan C. Fargo
Jack Hart
Robert A. Havern
Patricia D. Jehlen
Thomas M. McGee
Joan M. Menard
Richard T. Moore
Robert O'Leary
Pamela P. Resor
Karen E. Spilka
Steven A. Tolman
Susan C. Tucker
Dianne Wilkerson

Roundup

UMass Collective Bargaining Update

On April 14th, a \$128 million supplemental budget for fiscal '06 was signed into law that included \$30.1 million to fund collective bargaining agreements (UMass included). I realize there is still one more retroactive payment left, and I am working to make that happen as soon as possible.

Home Rule Petition

The bill to help preserve the Historic Lucius Crain Tavern in Hadley is now on the governor's desk.

Massachusetts Cultural Council Grants

The Massachusetts Cultural Council recently awarded its fiscal '06 Artist Grants in the following disciplines: drawing/printmaking/artist books, traditional arts, painting, choreography, poetry, and fiction/creative non-fiction.

There were 1,500 applicants and 39 artists were chosen to receive the \$5,000 award. Here are the winners from our area. Congratulations!

Choreography

Mollye Maxner, Amherst

Fiction/Creative Non-Fiction

Emily Bloch, Amherst
Francie Lin, Greenfield

Painting

Sandy Litchfield, Amherst

Poetry

Kristin Bock, Montague
Dawn Lundy Martin, Northampton
Lisa Olstein, Hadley

Local Artist

Western Massachusetts Mandala artist Jane Gruber will be exhibiting some of her paintings and hand-woven, hand-dyed rugs in my State House office until Aug. 31. To find out more about Jane, and see some of her work, visit

www.janegruber.com

Trivia

Now for the answer to our previous question:

What is the state's official vessel?

The answer is: The Schooner Ernestina.

And our winner is Kregg from somewhere in cyberspace. We'll send Kregg information on who to contact in my Boston office and we'll look forward to seeing Kregg at the State House. Congratulations! And thanks to everybody who played along!

Now to this month's question and another chance to win lunch and a State House tour:

Who is the state's official heroine?

Submit your answer to tumitch@sprynet.com and watch this space for the correct answer and the prize winner.

Links

Here are a few links. Until next time . . .

Join TeamRosenberg! <http://www.stanrosenberg.com/teamrosenberg.php>

Click here tumitch@sprynet.com if you want to be removed from our list.

Click here for our on-line feedback form www.stanrosenberg.com/form.html

Forward this link to a friend www.stanrosenberg.com/issues/rosenreportreg.html

Guide to Lawmaking -- <http://www.state.ma.us/legis/lawmkng.htm>

Massachusetts State Government Home Page – <http://mass.gov/>

The Legislature's web page – <http://www.state.ma.us/legis/>

Senate's Bill Text System – <http://www.state.ma.us/legis/billsrch.htm>

Legislative Tracking System – <http://www.state.ma.us/legis/ltsform.htm>

My personal website – <http://www.stanrosenberg.com/>

The Rosenberg Report (May, 2006, edition) --
<http://www.stanrosenberg.com/issues/may2006.html>