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REPRESENTATIVE STRAUS ANNOUNCES HISTORIC EASTOVER FARMS  
TO RECEIVE COMMONWEALTH  
CAPITAL GRANT

Boston: Rep. Bill Straus (D-Mattapoisett) announced today that Rochester's Eastover Farms will receive \$215,500 in Self Help grants, helping to preserve Eastover's roughly 80 acres of wetlands, rare species and historic landscapes. The acquisition is part of the Eastover Farm Land Preservation Project to permanently protect 780 acres in Rochester and Marion.

Eastover Farms, often referred to as the "crown jewel" within Rochester, is a landmark location for both Marion and Rochester. The town of Rochester has struggled to balance growth with the need to protect its farmland, both of which are foundations of the local economy. In fact, an overwhelming majority of town residents last March voted to increase their own property taxes in an effort to afford the down payment on the land in order to protect it from being developed. In spite of local efforts, state funding was still necessary in order to secure this open space project.

"I am delighted the administration has responded to our local calls of support for this project which will preserve for generations the rich land heritage of Rochester," stated Rep. Straus. "As the author of legislation to establish land preservation in the Mattapoisett River Valley and the Marion Land Bank, it is essential that regionally important projects get support from the State," continued Straus.

The funding is part of \$18 million in Commonwealth Capital grants that will preserve agricultural lands and help cities and towns reach their open space goals.