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### **STRAUS ANNOUNCES “GREEN BUILDING” LEGISLATION**

Boston: Rep. William Straus (D-Mattapoisett) announced today that he is filing legislation which will require newly filed school building projects to incorporate “green technology” into completed design and construction.

Over the next twenty years, the State will be financing approximately \$10 billion to help construct hundreds of new school buildings throughout Massachusetts. Cities and towns will save millions of dollars if the state mandated these buildings incorporate “green technology” because this technology is proven to reduce energy and utility consumption.

One such “green” building, the Genzyme building in Cambridge, has a 12-story atrium that uses mirrors to draw in natural light, rainwater recycling, waterless fixtures and low-emission paints and carpet. Other “green” buildings use panels, on-site power generation, fiberglass windows, and energy-saving lights and motors. The Boston Red Sox are also getting into the “green” swing, by using recycled materials for future construction projects.

“This technology is instrumental in helping the state save valuable natural resources while at the same time, lowering energy and heating costs,” stated Straus. “We as a state need to develop innovative ways to reduce our reliance on oil, and this provides a viable alternative. Given the Commonwealth’s substantial role in helping to complete large public buildings, we have a great opportunity to promote construction technologies which will save money and reduce energy consumption.”

This idea has also been promoted by Boston Mayor Thomas Menino, by requiring all new city government buildings to be “green.” Also, the Boston Red Sox, Genzyme, Brigham and Women’s hospital and other private businesses are beginning to incorporate this technology as well.

Researchers have found that buildings consume about 40 percent of all energy used in the nation, and the construction industry is the source of about 40 percent of the material in U.S. landfills.

“Green buildings” also provide significant savings. For example, one “green building,” the Maverick Gardens Housing Development in East Boston, has saved the city over \$100,000 in energy costs. Also, Genzyme has consumed a third less water than conventionally constructed buildings and cut electricity costs to 40 percent of buildings of the same size.

The legislation will receive a public hearing sometime in the Spring of 2005.