



**Commonwealth of Massachusetts Executive Department
Office of Governor Deval L. Patrick
Press Release**

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PATRICK, KERRY, KIRK, DELAHUNT ANNOUNCE

PARTNERSHIP TO SAVE BARNSTABLE HARBOR

Governor Patrick to award up to \$3.75 million in state capital funds to move emergency repairs of Barnstable bulkhead forward

BARNSTABLE – Monday, December 21, 2009 – Governor Deval Patrick, Senator John Kerry, Senator Paul Kirk and Congressman William Delahunt have devised a state-local cost sharing partnership to fund repairs to Barnstable Harbor’s emergency bulkhead system. The Governor and Congressman Delahunt announced the plan today after touring Barnstable Harbor and viewing the damage to a 30-foot section of the timber bulkhead.

“This project presents us with an opportunity to address an urgent public safety and environmental problem and put people to work,” said Governor Patrick. “We can ill-afford to let more land area fall into the bay or risk the jobs of the commercial fishermen and business owners who depend on the harbor for their livelihoods. By releasing these state funds to help supplement municipal costs, we are saying we recognize the value of this project and we want to see it through to completion.”

“The Barnstable Harbor is a lifeline for so many members of our community and we are doing everything we can to ensure its continued vitality,” said Congressman Delahunt. “Working alongside Governor Patrick, we will make sure these necessary repairs are made so that we reduce the threat to public safety and keep this critical part of our economy moving forward.”

“I want to thank Governor Patrick for providing this critically-needed funding to the Town of Barnstable. It will help keep Barnstable’s commercial fishermen and business owners, who depend on access to the harbor, in business next year. If all the interested parties had not stepped up to the plate the entire marina season in 2010 could have been lost,” said Senator John Kerry.

“I commend Governor Patrick for providing these funds to support the repair of the broken bulkhead in Barnstable Harbor,” said Senator Paul G. Kirk, Jr. “During

these tough economic times, the repairs to this vital bulkhead will both provide safety and promote economic activity for local fishermen and businesses.”

"As soon as I heard of this critical situation, I immediately began working with the community and my colleagues to find an answer to this public safety and economic problem," said Senate President Therese Murray. "Barnstable harbor is critical to the economic livelihood of the area and is a source of recreation for both residents and visitors alike. I am pleased we were able find an economically feasible solution to fix the damaged bulkhead."

In March 2008 a storm caused a 30-foot section of the timber bulkhead at Barnstable Harbor to fail, which led to a loss of approximately 450 square feet of landside area in one of the most trafficked areas of Barnstable. In March and again in May 2008, the town took steps to stabilize the failed areas. These efforts only provided temporary solutions and the harbor, in its current state, represents a significant threat to public safety. Engineering reports indicate that the next storm event or heavy snowfall could potentially cause a full collapse.

The Governor has entered into a cost-sharing agreement with the Town of Barnstable, pledging to cover up to 75% or \$3.75 million of the repair costs. The estimated cost for a full-scale repair is \$4.85 million. The Governor will use funding set aside in the 2008 Environmental Bond Bill for seaport area infrastructure improvements to see the bulkhead repair project through to completion. The Executive Office of Administration and Finance will oversee the disbursement of the funds.

"I want to applaud the state for making these funds available to the Town of Barnstable for emergency repairs to the Barnstable Bulkhead, especially in this time of fiscal uncertainty," said Senator Robert O'Leary. "The bulkhead is of huge commercial and recreational importance to the town, providing jobs, and generating much needed revenue. Since it collapsed last March, I have been working closely with the Governor's office and administration to try to secure any and all available funding. The award from the state, combined with funds the Town has pledged represents a solid commitment to protecting and rebuilding this important piece of town infrastructure." "I would like to thank the Governor and the various government agencies involved in this project for giving the Town of Barnstable such a nice pre-holiday present. Repairs of the harbor, its bulkheads and retaining walls will not only improve the public safety of the area, but will also act as an economic engine to bring back recreational and commercial fisherman who have otherwise been restricted from docking and offloading their catch because of the unsafe conditions of the harbor," said Representative Demetrius J. Atsalis. "It is in the best interest of the Town of Barnstable that these repairs are permanent rather than temporary, band aid fixes to ensure that these areas of the harbor will be safe and sound for many years to come."

"We are extraordinarily thankful that Governor Patrick understands the importance of our harbors and fishing industry and that he fought so hard to find a way to help us in our time of need," said Barnstable Town Manager John Klimm. "His leadership and determination to fix the bulkhead at Barnstable Harbor will benefit our entire community"

"On behalf of all the Members of the Friends of Barnstable Harbor, I am very pleased to welcome Governor Patrick to Barnstable Village for this milestone event, and to extend our most sincere gratitude to all who devoted their time and effort to the successful appropriation of this critically needed funding," said Ted Theodores, President of the Friends of Barnstable Harbor. "It is our hope, and our intent, to put these funds to work immediately for the purpose of repairing and enhancing our beautiful Harbor, and we look forward to the Governor's future visits."