



**For Immediate Release**  
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## **DCR DISTRIBUTES MORE THAN \$5 MILLION IN PAYMENTS TO WATERSHED TOWNS**

The Massachusetts Department of Conservation and Recreation (DCR) and the Massachusetts Water Resources Authority (MWRA) are pleased to announce the disbursement of \$5.5 million as Payments in Lieu of Taxes (PILOT) for Fiscal Year 2009.

The payments will go to communities in the Quabbin Reservoir, Ware River, and Wachusett Reservoir watersheds.

The PILOT program compensates municipalities for land within their boundaries that is owned by DCR to protect one of the nation's most pristine water supplies. Funds for the PILOT payments come from the MWRA, which supplies water from these reservoirs to 2.3 million people in 50 communities.

"We are pleased to be able to work in partnership with these communities to protect the watershed lands," said DCR Commissioner Richard K. Sullivan Jr.

"Watershed protection is critical to maintaining the quality of the water we provide to residents in our service area," added MWRA Executive Director Frederick A. Laskey.

Property purchased by the state is tax-exempt, so the PILOT program offsets the communities' loss of taxable lands. State law mandates the PILOT program under Massachusetts General Laws Chapter 59, Section 5G. The legislation dictates that these payments in lieu of taxes be based on the Department of Revenue valuations that are calculated once every four years. The last revaluation was in 2005. The Department of Revenue is currently completing its 2009 revaluation process, which will take effect in the fiscal year 2010 PILOT.

The Department of Revenue values DCR watershed land as either a prime lot, rear land, or unbuildable land. The PILOT amount is then determined by multiplying the Department of Revenue figure by each community's commercial tax rate. Under the law, a PILOT payment can never be less than the previous year, even if there is a drop in the land valuation or the local tax rate.

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Richard K. Sullivan, Jr., Commissioner  
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The PILOT program is made possible by the close working relationship between the watershed communities, the Department of Revenue, the MWRA, and DCR.

Unlike other PILOT programs for state-owned lands, which are disbursed through the state's Local Aid program and are subject to legislative allocation, the DCR program is paid in full directly to each community.

Attached below is a table with the dollar amount received by each community. The amount for six communities in the Quabbin Reservoir watershed also includes compensation for lands annexed during the construction of the Quabbin Reservoir.

For more information on the PILOT program, visit [www.mass.gov/dcr/waterSupply/watershed/pilot.htm](http://www.mass.gov/dcr/waterSupply/watershed/pilot.htm).

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*The Massachusetts Department of Conservation and Recreation (DCR), an agency of the Executive Office of Energy and Environmental Affairs, oversees 450,000 acres of parks and forests, beaches, bike trails, watersheds, and dams, in addition to 278 bridges and miles of roadways. Led by Commissioner Richard K. Sullivan Jr., the agency's mission is to protect, promote, and enhance our common wealth of natural, cultural, and recreational resources. To learn more about DCR, our facilities, and our programs, please visit [www.mass.gov/dcr](http://www.mass.gov/dcr). Contact us at [mass.parks@state.ma.us](mailto:mass.parks@state.ma.us).*

**Department of Conservation and Recreation  
 FY 2009 Payments In Lieu of Taxes to  
 Quabbin Reservoir, Ware River, and Wachusett Reservoir  
 Watershed Communities**

<b>Community</b>	<b>FY09PILOT</b>
Barre	\$134,451
Belchertown*	\$171,883
Berlin	\$29,474
Boylston	\$541,958
Clinton	\$128,815
Hardwick*	\$55,204
Holden	\$767,553
Hubbardston	\$249,984
Leominster	\$7,970
Ludlow	\$8,979
New Salem*	\$353,126
Northborough	\$88,007
Oakham	\$77,760
Orange	\$3,343
Pelham*	\$194,287
Petersham*	\$411,024
Phillipston	\$9,555
Princeton	\$172,113
Rutland	\$338,586
Shutesbury	\$273,292
Sterling	\$513,666
Templeton	\$637
Ware*	\$320,224
Wendell	\$17,549
West Boylston	\$602,756
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$5,472,192</b>

\* Includes additional payment for land annexed by town after disincorporation of communities for Quabbin Reservoir.

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