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GOMES NAMED CHAIR OF MASSACHUSETTS ENVIRONMENTAL TRUST *Former Environmental League of Massachusetts head to lead grant-making body*

BOSTON – Energy and Environmental Affairs Secretary Ian Bowles announced today that he has named Jim Gomes, former president of the Environmental League of Massachusetts, as chairman of the board of the Massachusetts Environmental Trust, an appointed body that advises the Secretary on grants ranging from \$5,000 to more than \$100,000 for environmental protection and education projects. The Trust is funded through environmental license plates and environmental litigation settlements. The position of chairman is unpaid.

Gomes is currently Director of the Mosakowski Institute for Public Enterprise at Clark University in Worcester. This new endowed institute focuses on important social issues, including education reform, environmental sustainability, access to healthcare, international development, and the welfare of children and families. It supports practical research to improve the effectiveness of government and other institutions in addressing these issues and enhances undergraduate and graduate education through hands-on learning, problem solving, and research opportunities.

Prior to his 14-year stint at the Environmental League of Massachusetts, Gomes served as Undersecretary of Environmental Affairs from 1989 to 1991.

“I have known Jim Gomes as an advocate and as an advisor to the Patrick Administration, and I have great faith in his ability to lead the Massachusetts Environmental Trust in new and fruitful directions,” said Secretary Bowles. “I am sure he will be a great asset to me and to Governor Patrick as we look for new ways to leverage Environmental Trust grants for greater environmental progress.”

“I am proud to accept the chairmanship of this important volunteer body, which has the ability to make a huge difference in the environmental future of the Commonwealth,” said Gomes, 54. “The Trust has a distinguished history of supporting important projects throughout the Commonwealth and there are many opportunities to build on these accomplishments in the future.”

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The Massachusetts Environmental Trust provides grants to municipalities, nonprofit organizations, and educational institutions for local initiatives to protect, restore, and improve the water resources of the Commonwealth. Funding for the Massachusetts Environmental Trust comes primarily from “Preserve the Trust” environmental license plates, the three designs of which feature the right whale and roseate tern; the brook trout; and a Blackstone Valley mill. These specialty plates, a \$40 bi-annual renewal fee for which constitutes a tax-deductible contribution to the Trust, have been voluntarily purchased by 70,000 Massachusetts vehicle owners, supporting \$1 million a year of Trust grant-making. The plates have generated more than \$16 million for the Trust since they were first introduced in 1994.

Gomes began his career at the Boston firm of Hale and Dorr (now Wilmer Hale LLP) and as a Massachusetts Assistant Attorney General. He then became Chief of Staff to Lieutenant Governor John Kerry. He later served as Policy Director of Kerry’s successful campaign for United States Senate, and as Executive Assistant to Senator Kerry.

Gomes holds a B.A. in Political Science from Trinity College in Hartford, a Master’s Degree in Public Policy from Harvard’s Kennedy School of Government, and a J.D. from Harvard Law School. He lives in Arlington with his wife and their two children.

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