



COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS
STATE SENATOR
MICHAEL O. MOORE
SECOND WORCESTER DISTRICT
State House, Room 518, Boston, MA 02133 (617) 722-1485

February 3, 2009

**SENATOR MOORE & REPRESENTATIVE PETERSON ANNOUNCE A
\$500,000 LAND CONSERVATION GRANT FOR GRAFTON AND UPTON**

Boston - State Senator Michael O. Moore (D-Millbury) and Representative George N. Peterson, Jr. (R-Grafton), along with the Executive Office of Energy and Environmental Affairs, are pleased to announce the Towns of Grafton and Upton have been awarded a \$500,000 land conservation grant from Local Acquisitions for Natural Diversity (LAND) for Pell Farm.

In partnership with the Conservation Commission, the Trust for Public Lands, and Grafton Land Trust, Pell Farm has received this grant for a 153.3-acre project. Overall, nine communities throughout the Commonwealth will receive LAND grants totaling \$3.5 million to help purchase 1,150 acres of land to protect farms, wetlands, forests, and wildlife habitat.

“This initiative demonstrates both Grafton and Upton’s ongoing commitment to preserve and protect our natural resources,” Moore stated. “It is important to have safeguards in place to care for our wildlife, watch over our water resources, and maintain our recreational facilities.”

“The purchase of this property adds to the already hundreds of protected acres on George Hill that are for wildlife and recreational use,” stated Representative Peterson. “This grant reassures the continued commitment to protecting open space across the Commonwealth.”

Pell Farm is a working farm with scenic landscape and a recreational area. It connects more than 480 acres of protected land and open space in Grafton and Upton, and is critical to the protection of water resources. As part of the purchase agreement, Christmas trees on approximately 20 acres of the property will continue to be harvested for the next 10 years.