



The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

Executive Office of Environmental Affairs

100 Cambridge Street, Suite 900

Boston, MA 02114-2524

MITT ROMNEY
GOVERNOR

KERRY HEALEY
LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR

ROBERT W. GOLLEDGE, JR.
SECRETARY

Tel. (617) 626-1000
Fax. (617) 626-1181
<http://www.mass.gov/envir>

"The people shall have the right to clean air and water, freedom from excessive and unnecessary noise, and the natural scenic historic aesthetic qualities of their environment; and the protection of the people in their right to conservation, development and utilization of the agricultural, mineral, forest, water, air and other natural resources in hereby declared to be public purpose."

-- Article XCVII of the Articles of Amendment to the Massachusetts Constitution

December 16, 2006

DEAR FRIEND:

On behalf of the Romney Administration, I am proud to share with you *The State of Our Environment 2006*, prepared by the Executive Office of Environmental Affairs (EOEA) for the Commonwealth of Massachusetts.

By examining environmental indicators and recent trends, *The State of Our Environment 2006* provides an overview of the status of our valuable air, water, land, coast and ocean resources, as well as our ability to plan for and deal with waste created in Massachusetts. Further, this report explores ongoing state initiatives that seek to improve our environment and their corresponding results. Lastly, we offer suggestions and guidance for forthcoming environmental issues that will require attention, commitment and strong leadership in the near future.

EOEA and its agencies are designated as the chief stewards of clean air and water, abundant natural resources, sustainable surroundings, and the quality of life these provide for our citizenry. *The State of Our Environment 2006* illustrates that environmental conditions in Massachusetts are improving, that we are facing new challenges, and that our charge is to persist in our stewardship of our natural resources.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "R. W. Golledge, Jr.", written in a cursive style.

Robert W. Golledge, Jr.
Secretary

Enclosure