



*The Commonwealth of Massachusetts*  
*House of Representatives*  
*State House, Boston 02133-1054*

**TODD M. SMOLA**  
**REPRESENTATIVE**  
1ST HAMPDEN DISTRICT

BRIMFIELD • HOLLAND • PALMER  
STURBRIDGE • WALES • WARE • WARREN

STATE HOUSE, ROOM 124  
TEL. (617) 722-2100  
FAX: (617) 722-2390

[www.reptoddsmla.org](http://www.reptoddsmla.org)  
[Todd.Smola@mahouse.gov](mailto:Todd.Smola@mahouse.gov)  
[Conor.Welch@mahouse.gov](mailto:Conor.Welch@mahouse.gov)

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
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**Contact: Conor Welch**  
**617-722-2100**

## **Representative Smola Announces DCR Arbor Day Poster Contest**

**BOSTON – Representative Todd M. Smola (R-Warren, Ranking Member, Committee on Ways & Means)** is pleased to announce the theme of the Department of Conservation and Recreation’s (DCR) 2016 Arbor Day Poster Contest: “Trees Grow with Us and for Us.” Fifth grade classes from both public and private schools across the state are asked to participate in this year’s contest by having students create posters and then hosting a school poster contest. The winning poster from each school can then be submitted to the agency for review.

“Whether rural or urban, trees serve as a vital natural resource that benefit us all,” said DCR Commissioner Leo Roy. “Trees can reduce energy consumption, clean air and water, reduce noise pollution, beautify communities, and provide habitats for wildlife, and it is important that we instill the importance of trees within today’s youth.”

Each year, over 1,500 Massachusetts fifth graders participate in the Arbor Day poster contest. First place prizes include a tree planting ceremony at the winner’s school, a certificate for art and science supplies, and more. Second Place, Third Place, and Honorable Mention winners will also receive art and science supplies.

“The Arbor Day Poster Contest is a terrific annual event organized by DCR,” said Representative Smola. “I always look forward to seeing what our local fifth graders come up with.”

This year’s theme, “Trees Grow with Us and for Us!” is designed to increase students’ understanding of trees and the role trees play in their community and in the world around

them. The DCR Urban and Community Forestry Program, with support from the U.S. Forest Service, sponsors the annual contest for fifth graders across the Commonwealth. Posters must be submitted by April 1, 2016, and the contest is open to all students currently enrolled in the fifth grade. [An Arbor Day Poster Contest Guide](#) is available on the DCR website or can be obtained by contacting Mollie Freilicher, 413-577-2966 or [mollie.freilicher@state.ma.us](mailto:mollie.freilicher@state.ma.us).

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