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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
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## **Rep. Smola Announces Energy Grant for Palmer**

**BOSTON – Representative Todd M. Smola (R-Warren, Ranking Member, Committee on Ways & Means)** is pleased to announce that Palmer has been awarded \$200,000 as part of the Green Communities Competitive Grants program. Palmer plans to use this money to fund energy conservation measures including air source heat pumps, weatherization, and LED lighting, in municipal facilities including Memorial Hall, the Council on Aging, Palmer High School, and Old Mill Pond School. Palmer was one of 64 communities across Massachusetts selected to receive funding as part of this competitive program.

“I want to congratulate Palmer for securing this funding by entering a strong proposal, and for their continued pursuit towards a clean energy future, which will benefit our residents and the state as a whole,” said Representative Smola.

Under the Green Communities Act, cities and towns must meet five criteria to be designated a Green Community and receive funding. The grants provide financial support for energy efficiency and renewable energy projects that further the designated communities’ clean energy goals. Two-hundred eighty Massachusetts cities and towns have currently earned the Green Communities designation which accounts for 87 percent of the Commonwealth’s population. These competitive grants are awarded to existing Green Communities that have successfully invested their initial designation grants and previous competitive grant awards. Grants are capped at \$200,000 per municipality.

The grants announced this week fund a range of projects from ventilation system upgrades to the installation of insulation and energy management systems at municipal buildings and facilities. Projects also include the installations of air-source heat pumps, hybrid police cruisers, and electric vehicle charging stations.

Representing total cost savings of over \$1.3 million annually and leveraging utility incentives of over \$1.6 million, once completed, these grant-supported projects are estimated to yield energy savings of over 43,000 MMBTus, which translates to the amount of energy consumed by 339 Massachusetts households. In greenhouse gas emissions terms, the projects are estimated to reduce emissions by 3,316 metric tons – roughly equal to taking nearly 700 cars off the road.

For additional information please contact Representative Smola at [Todd.Smola@mahouse.gov](mailto:Todd.Smola@mahouse.gov) or (617)722-2100.

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