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**PRESS RELEASE**

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**For Immediate Release  
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**-- MENARD EARNS HIGHEST ENVIRONMENTAL APPROVAL RATING IN SENATE--**

BOSTON – In the legislative report card distributed to House and Senate offices today, State Senator Joan M. Menard (D-Fall River), has received the highest rating of any Senator by the Massachusetts Audubon Society, the premier environmental advocacy group in the Commonwealth.

“Southeastern Massachusetts has a fine environmental champion in Senator Menard,” said Chris Hardy, legislative director for the Massachusetts Audubon Society. “We applaud Senator Menard for her outstanding environmental voting record this past session.”

The report card rating was based on 23 roll call votes pertaining to the environment taken in 2003 (there was a total of 476 roll calls in 2003). A majority of these votes were overrides on Governor Romney’s fiscal 2004 budget vetoes.

The average rating score for a senator was an 86%, Menard scored 10 points higher at 96%. “It is vital to maintain the unique and environmentally rich qualities that make Massachusetts such a desirable place to live and visit,” Menard said. “I will continue to work on behalf of sound environmental issues, and will continue to urge my colleagues in the senate to do the same.”

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