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WARREN BREAKS GROUND ON NEW WATER TANK

WARREN, MA – To launch the construction of Warren’s new federally funded water storage tank today, State Senator Stephen M. Brewer, Representative Reed Hillman and USDA Rural Development State Director, David Tuttle donned hard hats as they broke ground at the site of the new one million gallon tank. Accompanying the three at the site on Southbridge Road were, Warren Water District members, Jane R. Dolan, Francis Beaudry and other local officials.

The 2002 Farm Bill’s Water and Waste Disposal provision, signed into law by President Bush in May 2002, provided Warren with a \$912,450 low interest loan and \$746,550 grant for the town’s water distribution improvement project. A \$138,500 low interest loan and \$88,500 grant earlier in 2002 brings the total federal assistance for the project to over \$1.8 million. In addition to the construction of the new water tank, Warren will use the funds to replace some of the town’s old, often inoperative, asbestos laden water mains, with modernized mains.

“In these difficult economic times it is important for the state and federal government to extend every resource possible to help make improvements within communities,” said Representative Hillman. “This low interest loan will help ease the financial burden to the Town of Warren. Under the leadership of State Director David Tuttle, the USDA has once again helped to grant relief where it is needed. I applaud the hard work of the community and all of the agencies that made this project possible.”

“I am delighted with the level of commitment USDA and the Town of Warren has demonstrated to update the current water system,” said Senator Stephen M. Brewer. “This grant, combined with a low-interest rate loan, ensures completion of a water tank project that is vital to the community and will preserve the water quality for our children.”

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“The loan and grant program from USDA Rural Development is just what our small Water District needed to get some major projects started,” said Jack O'Neill, Jr., Clerk and Chairman of the Warren Water District. “Plus, the USDA staff that works with us is very helpful. They come to our meetings, work with our engineer, and answer our questions with no problem. Based on our experience so far, it's an excellent program.”

USDA Rural Development's mission is to deliver programs in a way that will support increasing economic opportunity and improve the quality of life of rural residents. As a venture capital entity, Rural Development provides equity and technical assistance to finance and foster growth in homeownership, business development, and critical community and technology infrastructure. Further information on rural programs is available at a local USDA Rural Development office or by visiting USDA's web site at <http://www.rurdev.usda.gov/ma>.

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