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For Immediate Release:
December 15, 2015

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**STATEMENT FROM SECRETARY MERRILL
ON THE LOSS OF REP. TERRY BACKER**

“Rep. Terry Backer personified the best of government of the people, by the people, for the people. Terry was most known for his ardent support of environmental issues, especially regarding two things: energy conservation to save the planet and environmental stewardship of the Long Island Sound. No one was more knowledgeable than Terry about those issues, and he used that knowledge to help us clean up the Long Island Sound and shape energy policy for a decade. He was also one of the few actual working guys in the General Assembly—it took him many years to get into the jacket and tie uniform. With his unvarnished, straight talk, he was able to get things done in an absolutely unique way. His word was his bond. He was a true Connecticut original. Goodbye Mr. Soundkeeper. We will miss you.”