

March 20, 2025

Chairman David A. Bennett
House Committee on Environment and Natural Resources
State House – Room 135
Providence, RI 02903

The Hon. Brett P. Smiley
Mayor

Ricky Caruolo
General Manager

Re: H 5845 - An Act Relating to Waters and Navigation – Public Drinking Water Supply System Protection

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Dear Chairman Bennett:

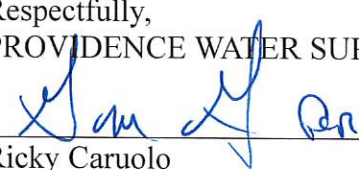
The Providence Water Supply Board would like to take this opportunity to comment on H 5845 which would require water suppliers to prepare a resilience assessment and response plan for the risk of natural hazards and environmental related impacts including floods, hurricanes, and earthquakes.

Providence Water owns and operates the largest water utility in Rhode Island. We are responsible for supplying affordable, high-quality drinking water to more than 600,000 retail and wholesale consumers throughout the state. Presently, Providence Water is required by the Environmental Protection Agency to prepare a Risk and Resilience Plan every five years. Providence Water is also required to prepare an emergency response plan as a component of the Water Supply System Management Plan that we submit to the RI Water Resources Board every five years. These documents contain the information being requested in H 5845. These documents are considered confidential given that they contain information that may indicate system vulnerabilities, but procedures have been established for appropriate parties to view the information.

While Providence Water commends legislators for promoting measures to protect the resiliency of water supply systems, we believe that the most efficient and cost effective path would be to make the current information available to appropriate parties upon request.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this legislation.

Respectfully,
PROVIDENCE WATER SUPPLY BOARD


Ricky Caruolo
General Manager

MEMBER

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