



## NEW ENGLAND CHAPTER BACKCOUNTRY HUNTERS & ANGLERS

March 12, 2024

To Chairman Craven and the members of the House Judiciary Committee

Re: BHA Comments on RI - 2024 – H7455 – Possession & Prescription - Footways

Backcountry Hunters & Anglers (BHA) seeks to ensure North America's outdoor heritage of hunting and fishing in a natural setting. Our members consider protecting access to public lands and waters a top priority, recognizing that access is one of the most important factors to our participation in, and the perpetuation of, our outdoor traditions.

With these things in mind, BHA supports the intent of H7455, which seeks to eliminate an unnecessary and outdated restriction in RI General Laws that prevents adverse public use as a legal means to designate foot paths as public rights-of-way within 100 yards of the Pawtuxet River in Warwick and Cranston.

During the 2024 legislative session multiple bills have been introduced related to the vehicular-use restriction on easements by prescription, and we respectfully we urge the committee to hold H7455 for further study, as its geographically restricted scope limit its effect relative to other proposals. BHA urges the Committee, and ultimately the RI General Assembly, to support H7750, which would fully accomplish the change proposed in H7455, but would apply to the entire State rather than a limited area around the Pawtuxet River.

Thank you for your consideration,

Michael Woods  
Saunderstown, RI 02874  
rhodeisland@backcountryhunters.org  
Chair, New England Chapter Board  
Backcountry Hunters & Anglers