

March 12, 2024

Submitted via e-mail to: Committee chair and clerk.

To the Honorable House Committee on Judiciary,



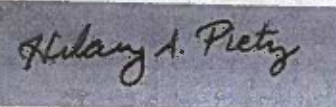


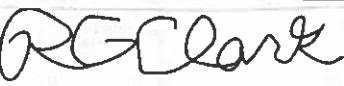

We appreciate the opportunity to offer comments in support of H 7750 – Relating to Property -- By Possession and Prescription.

Without passage of H 7750, current Rhode Island General Law (RIGL) specifically does not allow for a public right of way (ROW) to be established by footpaths; the pathways must have been used by carriages or vehicles, which is challenging to document.

One such specific instance where the passage of H 7750 would be of immediate positive impact to Rhode Islanders would be the ability to establish a ROW along a historic trail leading from Glen Farm Road to the Sakonnet River. Multiple generations of Portsmouth residents have walked this historical trail for decades, yet the status of this historical trail has been thrown into doubt, as this splendid trail is only accessible by foot.<sup>1</sup>

Passing H 7750 will expedite the Right-of-Way designation process with RI Coastal Resources Management Council (CRMC). A more robust designation process which takes into account the fact that historical ROWs were initially established by footpaths, will ensure current and future generations of Rhode Islanders can have opportunities to enjoy their right to access our beautiful and scenic coastline without resorting to vehicle transportation.

Sincerely,

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<sup>1</sup> "Letter: Glen Stream Trail is the heartbeat of Portsmouth (Andreola)"; "Letter: Let's work with new owners to keep trail open (Kenney)"; "Letter: Glen Stream Trail is the heartbeat of Portsmouth (Albrecht)" *Portsmouth Times* (posted 11/5/2019 – 11/6/2019)