



COMMUNITY COLLEGE  
OF RHODE ISLAND

Office of the President

April 9, 2024

The Honorable Stephen M. Casey  
Chair, Municipal Government and Housing Committee  
State House  
Providence, RI 02903

Re: 2024 – House Resolution 7977 Sub A

Dear Chairman Casey and members of the House Committee on Municipal Government and Housing;

I am writing in support of House Resolution 7977 Sub A, which would create a thirteen (13) member commission to study the ability of the RI educational system to offer degrees or certificates to provide a supply/pipeline of planners, planning technicians and staff, of which the Community College of Rhode Island (CCRI) would sit as a member.

CCRI recognizes the importance of ensuring that our educational system is equipped to meet the needs of our state's workforce. The challenges outlined in the legislation, including the need to streamline local permits, address environmental concerns, and modernize zoning regulations, underscore the urgency of this endeavor.

CCRI is committed to providing accessible and high-quality education to all Rhode Islanders, and we believe that the work of this commission aligns closely with our mission. As a member of the commission, CCRI will bring valuable insights and expertise to the table, drawing on our experience in workforce development and educational innovation.

Starting this Fall, CCRI will offer a Geographic Information Systems (GIS) Certificate in Urban Geology. This 18-credit certificate program will provide students with hands-on experience collecting and mapping spatial data using online and desktop GIS software. Upon successful completion of the program, students will be able to independently complete basic to intermediate level mapping and geospatial analyses, and organize and collect data for use in solution-based decision making; all critical skills for those seeking employment in planning.



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I commend the Speaker for his leadership on this important issue. CCRI looks forward to collaborating with our partners across the state to ensure that all Rhode Islanders have access to the educational opportunities they need to succeed.

Thank you for your continued support of our students and our college.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Rosemary A. Costigan".

Rosemary A. Costigan, Ph.D., RN  
Interim President