



June 12, 2024

Chairman Stephen M. Casey  
House Committee on Municipal Government and Housing  
State House – Room 101  
Providence, RI 02903

**The Hon. Brett P. Smiley**  
Mayor  
**Ricky Caruolo**  
General Manager

Re: H 8207 - An Act Relating to State Affairs and Government - Farmland Preservation Act

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Dear Chairman Casey:

The Providence Water Supply Board would like to take this opportunity to comment on H 8207 which would prohibit water suppliers from assessing any impact or connection fees associated with the extension of water utilities for agricultural operations/land. Presently, the costs related to the extension of water utilities are assumed by the property owner.

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. Per the RI Public Utilities Commission (PUC), Providence Water is prohibited from making a profit. Providence Water is allowed to assess specific water service connection/installation fees per tariff schedules approved by the PUC in Docket No. 4061, effective April 2010.

Providence Water opposes legislation that would require all our water system ratepayers to subsidize costs for owners of agricultural land/operations and we urge committee members to oppose the passage of H 8207.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this legislation.

Respectfully,  
PROVIDENCE WATER SUPPLY BOARD

  
**Ricky Caruolo**  
General Manager

**MEMBER**  
Rhode Island Water Works Assn.  
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**(401) 521-6300**  
125 Dupont Drive  
Providence, RI 02907

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