



RHODE ISLAND
DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT

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February 6, 2024

The Honorable Evan P. Shanley
Chairman
House Committee on State Government and Elections
82 Smith Street
Providence, Rhode Island 02903

RE: H 7246 An Act Relating to State Affairs and Government – Long-Term Economic Development

Dear Chairman Shanley,

Thank you for providing the Department of Environmental Management (DEM) the opportunity to comment on H 7246, which would require the state's economic development policy and vision to consider climate change, sea-level rise, and coastal resiliency. It would also add the directors of DEM and the Coastal Resources Management Council to the state's economic development planning council. DEM supports this legislation.

The impacts of climate change are already being experienced by Rhode Island, from more severe storms to higher temperatures and higher sea levels. It is critical that state agencies work together to protect Rhode Islanders against the impact of climate change. This proposed legislation would help to increase coordination among state agencies and provide another avenue for the impacts of climate change to be considered by policymakers.

We appreciate the opportunity to offer comments on this legislation and would be pleased to make ourselves available as needed. Please feel free to contact Ryan Mulcahey, DEM Director of Legislative Affairs, at ryan.mulcahey@dem.ri.gov should you have any additional questions or wish to discuss this matter further.

Sincerely,

Terrence Gray, P.E.
Director

CC: Members of the House Committee on State Government and Elections
The Honorable Jennifer Boylan
Nicole McCarty, Esq., Chief Legal Counsel to the Speaker of the House
Lynne Urbani, House Policy Director