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Sent: Sunday, February 4, 2024 8:23 PM
To: House State Government and Elections Committee
Cc: Rep. Boylan, Jennifer; Sen. Lauria, Pamela J.; Rep. Donovan, Susan R; Rep. Speakman, June
Subject: Subject: Testimony in support of H7246: Long-term Economic Development, Hearing date February 6, 2024

Testimony in support of H7246: Long-term Economic Development

George Voutes, 17 Shore Road, Bristol, RI 02809

Date of Hearing: February 6, 2024

To Chair Shanley and the honorable Members of the House Committee on State Government and Elections:

Strengthening the resilience of Rhode Island against the impact of climate change and the resulting sea level rise and extreme weather will have significant economic impacts. Costs from loss and damage will rise, and improving resilience will help to reduce these costs and will also bring opportunities for business growth and investment in resilience and adaptation.

H7426 accommodates this reality: it asks to include climate change, sea-level rise, and coastal resiliency in the long-term economic development vision and policy for the state of Rhode Island and the strategic plan for implementing this policy. In addition it brings related expertise to the Economic Development Planning Council, by adding the Director of the Department of Environmental Management and the Director of the Coastal Resources Management Council to the Council. The grown scope and scale of the Council's mandate are also reflected in making the Secretary of Commerce chair of the Council meetings.

Overall, this will have a positive impact on the resilience of Rhode Island. I urge you to support H7426, so it can get to a vote in 2024. Thank you very much for considering my input, and thank you to Representative Boylan for introducing this important bill.

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