

The House Committee on State Government & Elections
Rhode Island State House
82 Smith Street
Providence, RI 02903
HouseStateGovernmentandElections@rilegislature.gov

February 6, 2024

Re: Handy Law, llc in Support of H 7264 An Act Relating to State Affairs and Government – Long-Term Economic Development

Dear Committee:

Our firm supports House Bill 7246, An Act Relating to State Affairs and Government – Long-Term Economic Development. In recognizing the critical nature of climate change, sea level rise, and coastal resiliency to the State of Rhode Island's economic future, the bill helps align our long-term planning with many initiatives underway, both within our state and at the national level. As attorneys who represent renewable energy developers in Rhode Island and have long advocated for better transparency in Narragansett Electric's energy planning and for more proactive energy planning, we recognize the significant and growing importance of these considerations in the economy of our state.

Updating R.I. Gen. Laws § 42-64.17-1 to reflect these priorities aligns the act with longstanding state priorities, as seen in acts such as the Rhode Island Act of Climate (2021), which requires 100% of the state's electricity to come from renewable sources by 2033; the Resilient Rhode Island Act (2014), which incorporates consideration of climate change in the work of all state agencies, as well as many other commitments and goals across our state.

House Bill 7264 also aligns Rhode Island's long-term planning with that of the Federal government, as expressed in the Infrastructure and Investment Jobs Act (2021) and Inflation Reduction Act (2022), which both prioritize clean energy and climate resilience as an essential component of our nation's economic future.

As our state continues to lead the nation in climate response, it is critical that our policies consider these factors across the board, and especially regarding our long-term economic development. HB 7246 advances that goal and helps position Rhode Island for future success and national leadership.

Please adopt H 7246 to include the urgent and essential considerations of climate change, seal level rise, and coastal resiliency to the language of R.I. Gen. Laws § 42-64.17-1, to ensure that these pressing concerns are reflected in our long-term planning and economic development.

Sincerely,



Conor MacDonald