



STATE OF RHODE ISLAND
EXECUTIVE OFFICE OF COMMERCE

February 6, 2024

The Honorable Representative Evan P. Shanley
Chair, House State Government and Elections Committee
State House
Providence, RI 02903

RE: HB 7426 – Long-Term Economic Development

Dear Chair Shanley,

I write on behalf of the Executive Office of Commerce in support of House Bill 7246, which expands the composition of the economic development planning council (Planning Council) and the scope of the long-term economic development vision and policy and strategic plan to include climate change, sea-level rise, and coastal resiliency.

We now have an Economic Development Agency (EDA)-approved Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDS) and the state's long-term economic development vision and strategy plan. The EDA requires climate change and its impacts to be considered in the CEDS; these two plans were developed in concert, incorporating climate change, sea-level rise, and coastal resiliency.

Here in Rhode Island, we are acutely aware of how critical it is to consider climate change, sea-level rise, and coastal resiliency in our economic development plans for the future. As such, it will be greatly beneficial to expand the scope of the Planning Council to include the Coastal Resources Management Council and the Department of Environmental Management in our future planning.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Elizabeth M. Tanner".

Elizabeth M. Tanner, Esq.
Secretary of Commerce

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