

RE: Testimony in support of HR 5732: Green Amendment

FROM: Christopher Woods (Providence, 02909)

TO: Members of the House State Government and Elections Committee

DATE: April 3, 2025

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Dear Chair Shanley and Members of the House State Government and Elections Committee,

I am writing in support of House Resolution 5732 (the Green Amendment). As the "Ocean State," Rhode Island has a profound interest in the conservation of our air, water, soil, and a life-supporting climate. Constitutionalizing these interests as individual rights and providing for a private cause of action is essential to ensuring the state government acts in the best interests of current and future generations. As exemplified by the rights of fishery and the privileges of the shore, R.I. Const. art. 1 § 17, Rhode Islanders have a deep tradition of stewarding our natural resources. The proposed amendment builds on that legacy by allowing residents to hold future administrations accountable for state action violative of the inherent right to a clean environment.

Rhode Island has an opportunity to join states like New York, Pennsylvania, and Montana in being a leader on environmental protection. I urge the Committee to support this resolution.