



State of Rhode Island

GENERAL ASSEMBLY

Rear Admiral Michael E. Platt
1st District Commander
408 Atlantic Avenue
Boston, MA 02110

June 5, 2025

Dear Admiral Platt:

As legislators from all over Rhode Island, we strenuously object to the Coast Guard's proposal to remove more than 30 navigational aids that warn boaters of dangers in the waters off our shores.

While we understand that modern technology now allows captains of many vessels to navigate entirely by electronic means, we must speak up on behalf of those who sail our bay and beyond on smaller boats, as many of our constituents do.

Here in the Ocean State, access to our coastal waters is a cherished right for all — one so important that it is enshrined in our state constitution. We believe very strongly that the ocean is for everyone, not just for those with means. Thousands of Rhode Islanders travel along our 400 miles of coast on small, unsophisticated vessels that are not equipped with advanced technology. The buoys and markers that are on the chopping block provide critical visual and/or audible warnings that protect them from very lethal hazards.

Technology has provided incredible advances, but it is not failsafe. Power and signals can be lost. Handheld devices can be dropped overboard or become unusable when wet. Those using them can become distracted. Even if the majority of those on boats were navigating through technology, the continued existence of navigational aids is just as critical as signs on the highway. For the same reason we don't expect drivers on the road to rely exclusively on their phone to navigate — safety — we should not demand it of boaters. Visual and audible markers of the location of navigational hazards are a lifesaving necessity.

We urge you to reject this proposal, and continue to maintain navigational aids along our coast. Technology cannot fully replace the simple visual that they provide, and any savings from their removal would certainly not outweigh the cost of lives and property that would likely be lost.

Very sincerely,



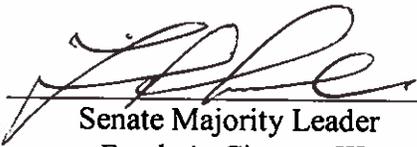
Senator Louis P. DiPalma
District 12



Senator Linda L. Ujifusa
District 11



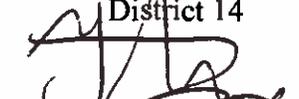
Senate President
Valarie J. Lawson
District 14



Senate Majority Leader
Frank A. Ciccone III
District 7



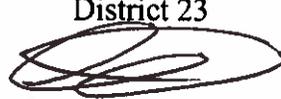
Senate Minority Leader
Jessica de la Cruz
District 23



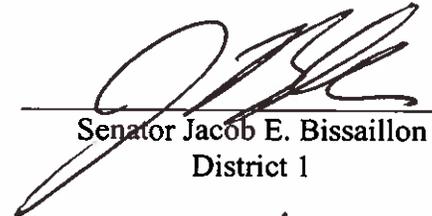
Senator Jonathon Acosta
District 16



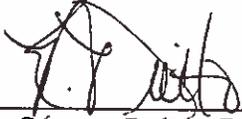
Senator Peter Appollonio
District 29



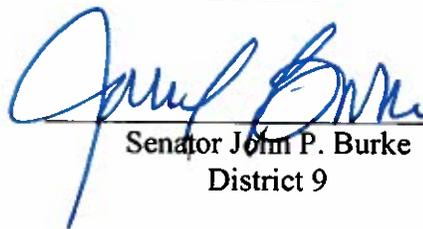
Senator Samuel W. Bell
District 5



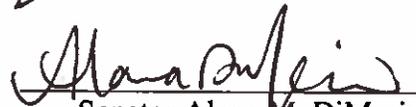
Senator Jacob E. Bissailon
District 1



Senator Robert Britto
District 18



Senator John P. Burke
District 9



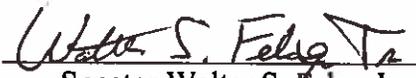
Senator Alana M. DiMario
District 36



Senator Andrew R. Dimitri
District 25



Senator Dawn Euer
District 13



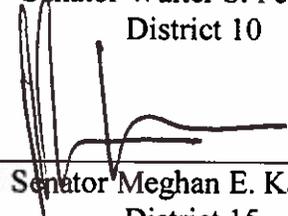
Senator Walter S. Felag Jr.
District 10



Senator Hanna M. Gallo
District 27



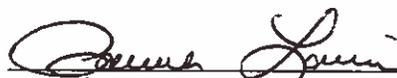
Senator Victoria Gu
District 38



Senator Meghan E. Kallman
District 15



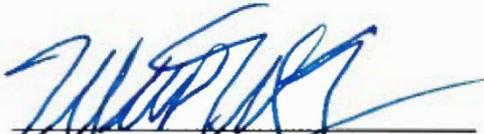
Senator Matthew L. LaMountain
District 31



Senator Pamela J. Lauria
District 32



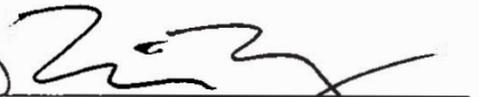
Senator Tiara T. Mack
District 6



Senator Mark P. McKenney
District 30



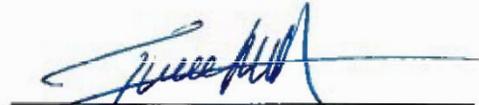
Senator Elaine J. Morgan
District 34



Senator Melissa A. Murray
District 24



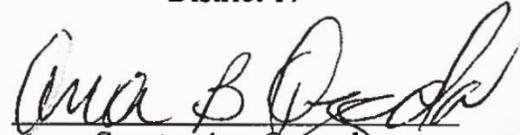
Senator Thomas J. Paolino
District 17



Senator Todd Patalano
District 26



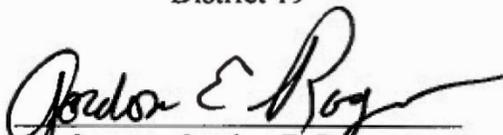
Senator Ryan W. Pearson
District 19



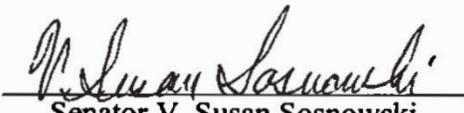
Senator Ana Quezada
District 2



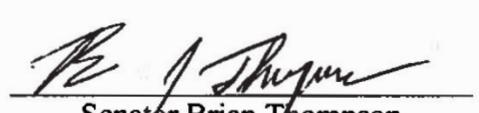
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District 33



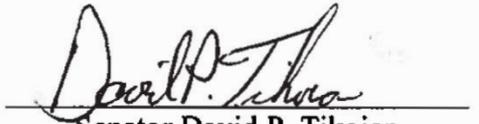
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District 21



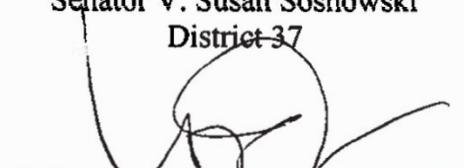
Senator V. Susan Sosnowski
District 37



Senator Brian Thompson
District 20



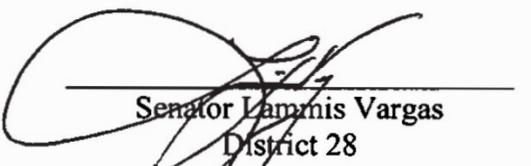
Senator David P. Tikoian
District 22



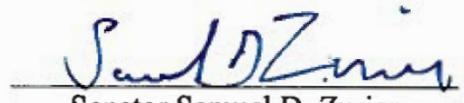
Senator Lori Urso
District 8



Senator Bridget Valverde
District 35



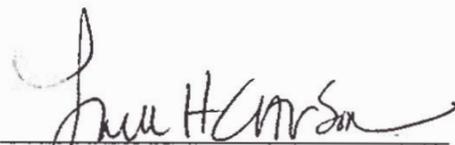
Senator Lammis Vargas
District 28



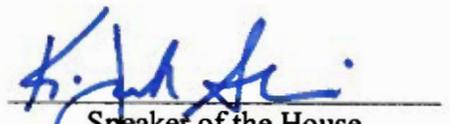
Senator Samuel D. Zurier
District 3



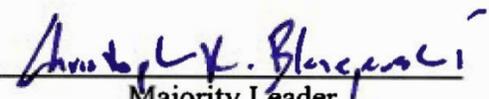
Representative Michelle E. McGaw
District 71



Representative Lauren H. Carson
District 75



Speaker of the House
K. Joseph Shekarchi
District 23



Majority Leader
Christopher R. Blazewski
District 2



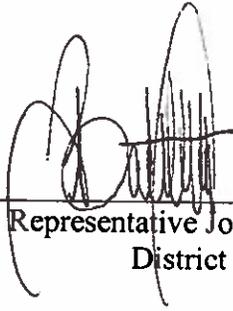
Representative Marvin L. Abney
District 73



Representative Mia A. Ackerman
District 45



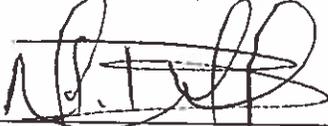
Representative Edith H. Ajello
District 1



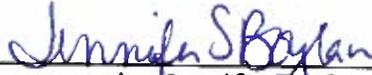
Representative José F. Batista
District 12



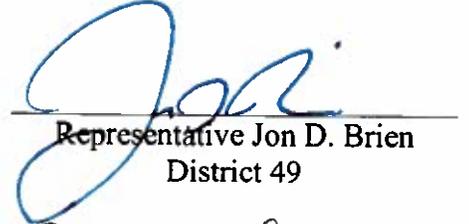
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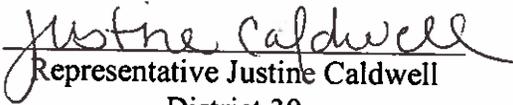
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District 3



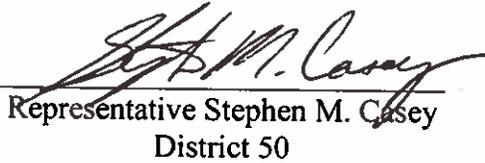
Representative Jennifer Boylan
District 66



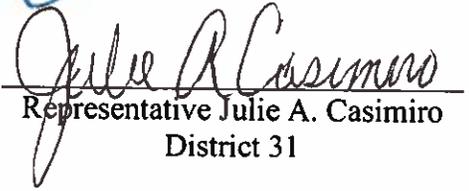
Representative Jon D. Brien
District 49



Representative Justine Caldwell
District 30



Representative Stephen M. Casey
District 50



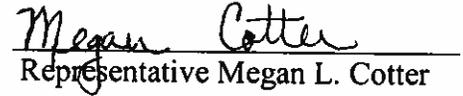
Representative Julie A. Casimiro
District 31



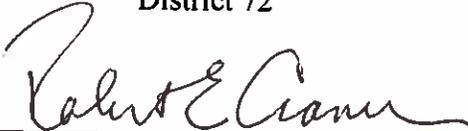
Representative Terri Cortvriend
District 72



Representative Arthur J. Corvese
District 55



Representative Megan L. Cotter
District 39



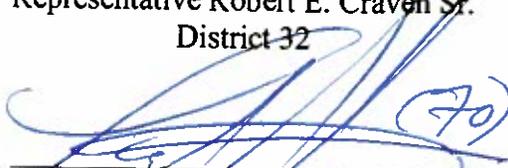
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District 32



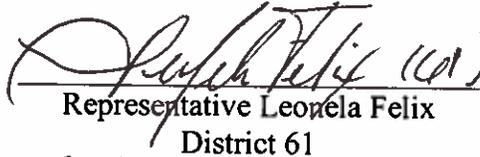
Representative Matthew S. Dawson
District 65



Representative Susan R. Donovan
District 69



Representative John G. Edwards
District 70



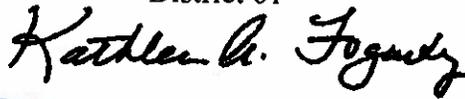
Representative Leonela Felix
District 61



Representative Deborah A. Fellela
District 43



Representative Alex S. Finkelman
District 74



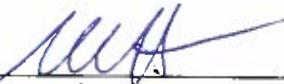
Representative Kathleen A. Fogarty
District 35



Representative Jenni A. Furtado
District 64



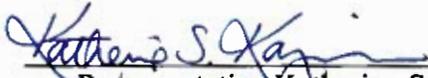
Representative Arthur Handy
District 18

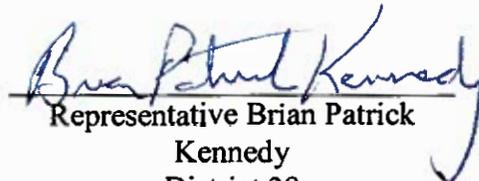


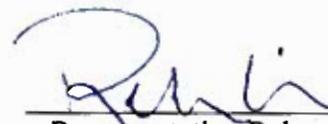
Representative Marie Hopkins
District 21



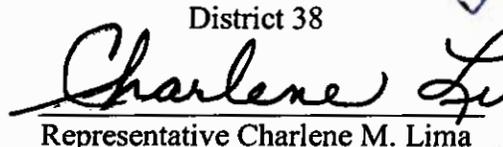
Representative Raymond A. Hull
District 6

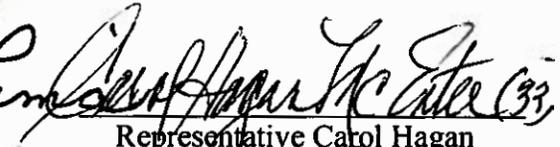

Representative Katherine S.
Kazarian
District 62

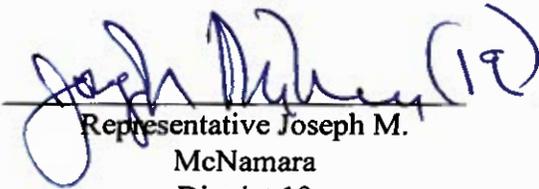

Representative Brian Patrick
Kennedy
District 38


Representative Rebecca Kislak
District 4

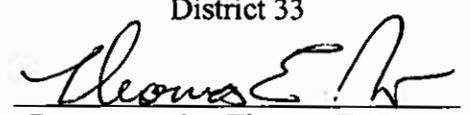

Representative Jason Knight
District 67

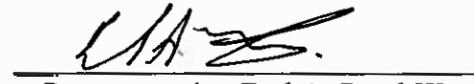

Representative Charlene M. Lima
District 14

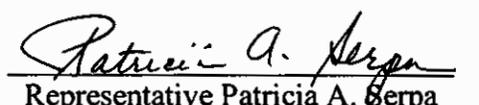

Representative Carol Hagan
McEntee
District 33


Representative Joseph M.
McNamara
District 19

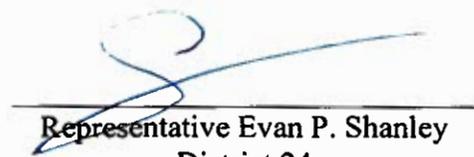

Representative David Morales
District 7


Representative Thomas E. Noret
District 25

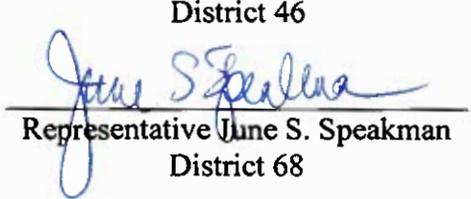

Representative Earl A. Read III
District 26

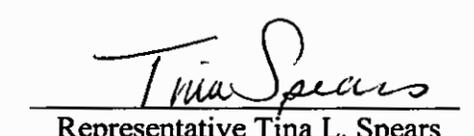

Representative Patricia A. Serpa
District 27

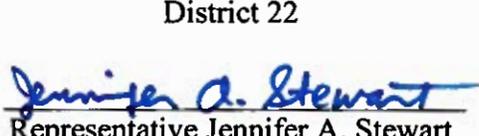

Representative Mary Ann Shallcross
Smith
District 46

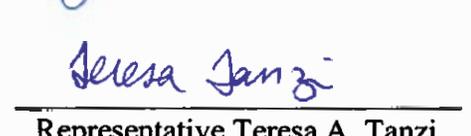

Representative Evan P. Shanley
District 24


Representative Joseph J. Solomon
Jr.
District 22


Representative June S. Speakman
District 68


Representative Tina L. Spears
District 36


Representative Jennifer A. Stewart
District 59


Representative Teresa A. Tanzi
District 34


Representative Brandon T. Voas
District 57