



# 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,



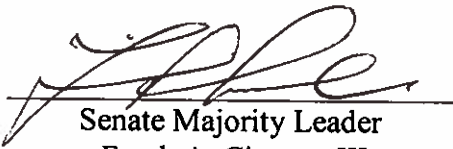
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District 11



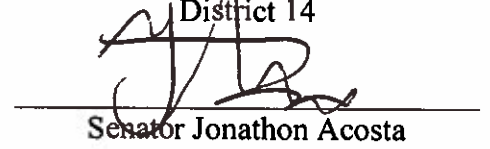
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Valarie J. Lawson  
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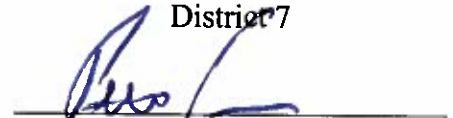
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Frank A. Ciccone III  
District 7



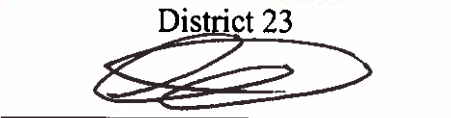
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Senator Andrew R. Dimitri  
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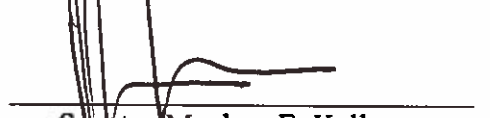
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District 15




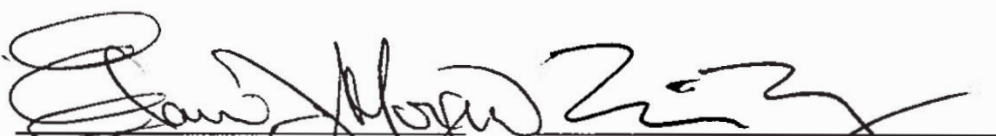
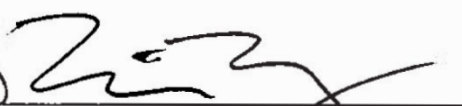

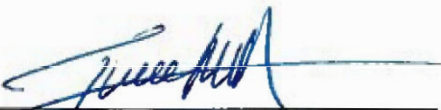
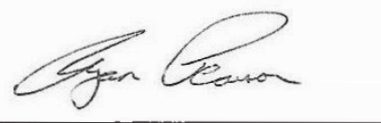
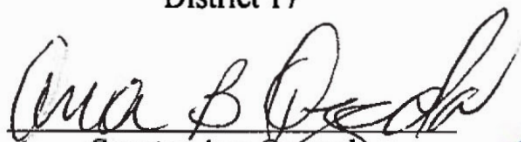
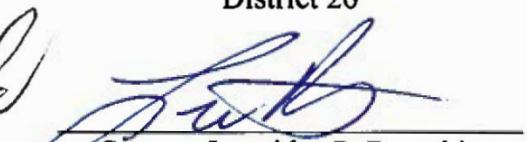
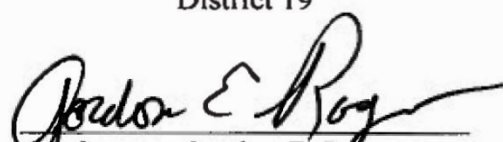
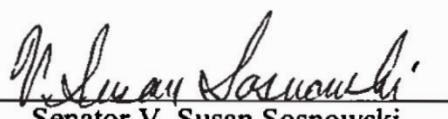
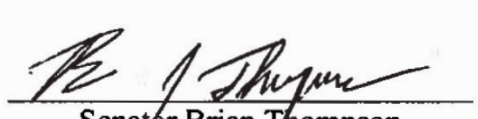
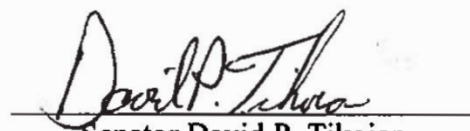
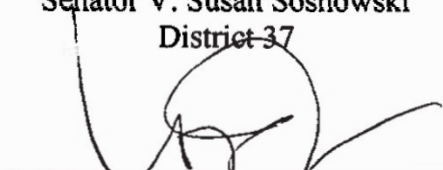

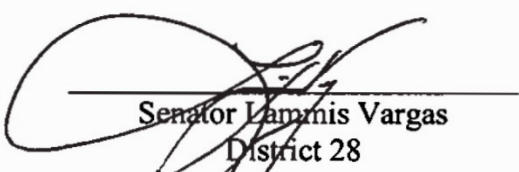
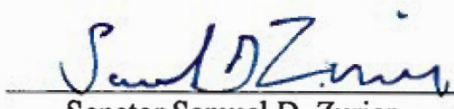
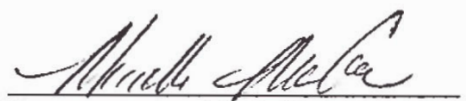
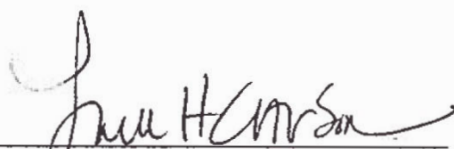
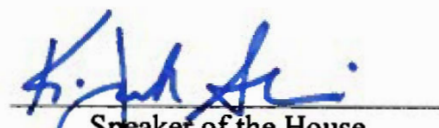
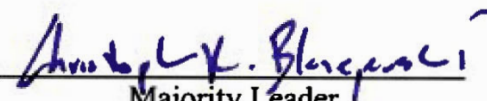
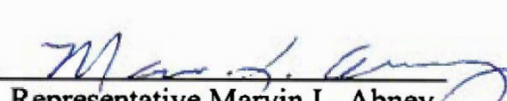
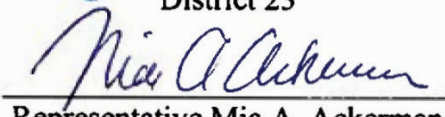
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Senator Pamela J. Lauria  
District 32

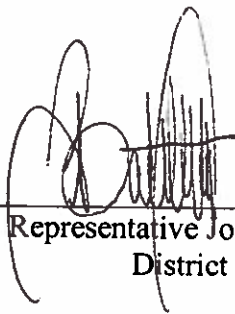


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District 23  
Majority Leader  
Christopher R. Blazejewski  
District 2  
Representative Marvin L. Abney  
District 73  
Representative Mia A. Ackerman  
District 45



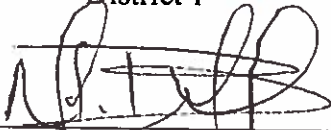
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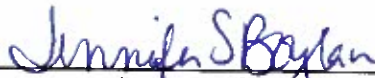
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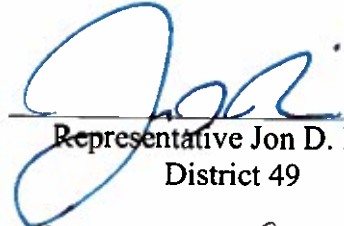
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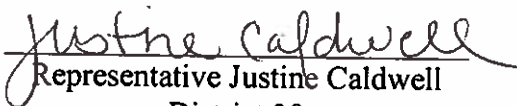
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Representative Jennifer Boylan  
District 66



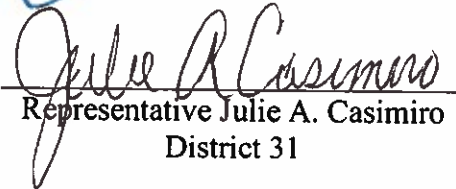
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Representative Justine Caldwell  
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Representative Stephen M. Casey  
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Representative Julie A. Casimiro  
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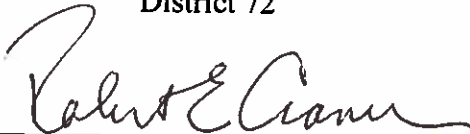
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Representative Megan L. Cotter  
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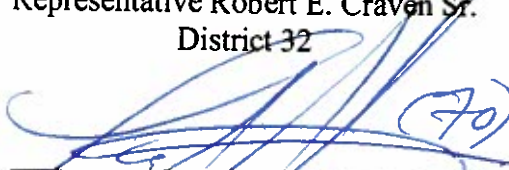
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Representative Matthew S. Dawson  
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Representative Susan R. Donovan  
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Representative John G. Edwards  
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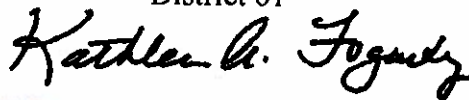
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Representative Deborah A. Fellela  
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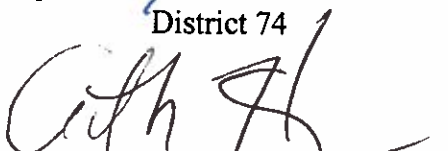
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Representative Kathleen A. Fogarty  
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Representative Jenni A. Furtado  
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Representative Arthur Handy  
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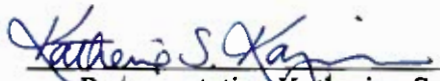


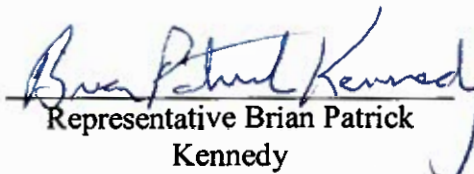
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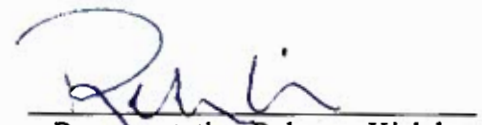


Representative Raymond A. Hull  
District 6

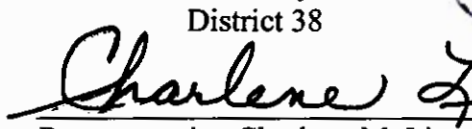


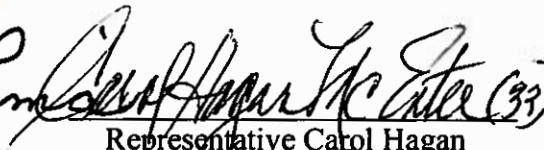
  
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Representative Brian Patrick  
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Representative Rebecca Kislak  
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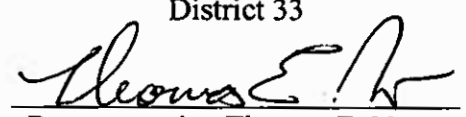
  
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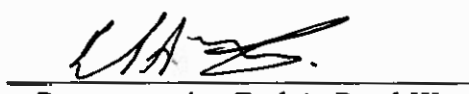
  
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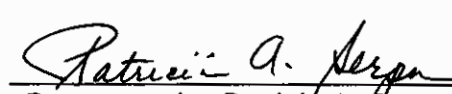
  
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Representative Thomas E. Noret  
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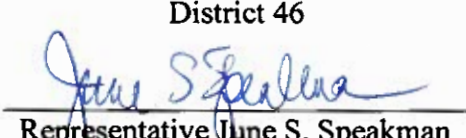
  
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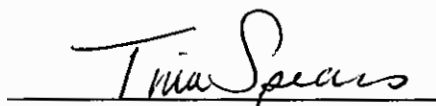
  
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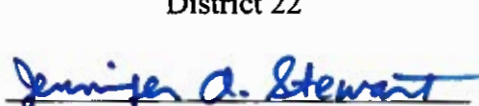
  
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Representative Evan P. Shanley  
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Representative Joseph J. Solomon  
Jr.  
District 22

  
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