

SAVE THE BAY.®

NARRAGANSETT BAY

The Honorable House Committee on Finance

July 29, 2020

H. 7171

**Amendments to Article 5 – Relating to Capital Development Program
Question 2 The Beach Clean Water and Green Bond**

Testimony in Support

Jonathan Stone, Executive Director, Save The Bay

Save The Bay appreciates the opportunity to provide testimony on proposed amendments to Article 5 of H. 7171, the Governor's proposed FY21 budget. Save The Bay strongly **supports** the proposed Question 2, the Beach, Clean Water and Green Bond, including the proposed amendments.

The Clean Water, Beaches and Green Bond makes investments in what makes Rhode Island special: clean water, open space, public beaches and parks, and community resilience to climate change. Wastewater treatment and stormwater management are the first line of defense for a clean and healthy Narragansett Bay, and the state's investment in these systems will leverage millions in federal matching dollars. The proposed improvements and upgrades to facilities at our state beaches, parks and campgrounds represent an investment not just in Rhode Islanders' most special places, but also in one of the state's greatest economic assets. And the proposed investment in municipal resilience will help our cities and towns adapt to the impacts of climate change, including rising seas, coastal erosion and increased inland flooding.

The Beach, Clean Water & Green Bond is an investment in Rhode Island's recovery from the pandemic and related damage to the state's economy. It is a boost the state's vital natural resources – including Narragansett Bay – which all Rhode Islanders depend on.

For over four decades, Rhode Islanders have overwhelmingly voted in favor of investments in our environment. We hope the General Assembly will, once again, give voters the opportunity to voice their support for our natural environment.

Thank you for considering Save The Bay's comments.