



RHODE ISLAND
DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT

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February 22, 2021

The Honorable Carol Hagan McEntee
Chairwoman
House Committee on Small Business
82 Smith Street
Providence, Rhode Island 02903

RE: H 5411 An Act Relating to State Affairs and Government – Long-Term Economic Development

Dear Chairwoman McEntee,

Thank you for providing the Department of Environmental Management (DEM) the opportunity to comment on H 5411, which would require the state's economic development policy and vision to consider climate change, sea-level rise, and coastal resiliency. It would also add the directors of DEM and the Coastal Resources Management Council to the state's economic development planning council. The Department supports this legislation.

The impacts of climate change are already being experienced by Rhode Island, from more severe storms to higher temperatures and higher sea levels. It is critical that state agencies work together to protect Rhode Islanders against the impact of climate change. This proposed legislation would help to increase coordination among state agencies and provide another avenue for the impacts of climate change to be considered by policymakers.

We appreciate the opportunity to offer comments on this legislation and would be pleased to make ourselves available as needed. Please feel free to contact Terry Gray, Deputy Director for Environmental Protection, at terry.gray@dem.ri.gov should you have any additional questions or wish to discuss this matter further.

Sincerely,

Janet Coit
Director

CC: Members of the House Committee on Small Business
The Honorable Terri Cortvriend