

Special House Commission to Study Renaming the New Sakonnet Bridge as the “Anne Hutchinson Bridge”

Summary Report and Recommendations

June 10, 2008

Representative Amy Rice
Chairperson

**SPECIAL HOUSE COMMISSION TO STUDY RENAMING THE NEW
SAKONNET BRIDGE AS THE "ANNE HUTCHINSON BRIDGE"**

Commission Members

Representative Amy Rice – Chairman

Representative Charlene Lima

Representative Bruce Long

Nancy Parker Wilson

Audrey Feld

08-R135
2008 -- H 7501
Enacted 04/03/08

HOUSE RESOLUTION
CREATING A SPECIAL HOUSE COMMISSION TO STUDY RENAMING THE NEW
SAKONNET BRIDGE AS THE "ANNE HUTCHINSON BRIDGE"

Introduced By: Representatives Rice, Loughlin, Gallison, Mumford, and Story

Date Introduced: February 26, 2008

WHEREAS, Throughout the centuries, dedications and memorials have served as tributes to prominent heroes who have woven the rich fabric of an area or people's history; and

WHEREAS, The State of Rhode Island, as well as the majority of states across the country, upholds this tradition by naming structures such as roads, bridges and edifices after these renowned individuals; now, therefore be it

RESOLVED, That a special legislative commission be and the same is hereby created consisting of five (5) members: three (3) of whom shall be members of the House of Representatives, not more than two (2) from the same political party, to be appointed by the Speaker of the House; and two (2) of whom shall be members of the community, to be appointed by the Speaker.

The purpose of said commission shall be to make a comprehensive study of whether Rhode Island Bridge No. 250, previously known as the New Sakonnet Bridge, shall be renamed as the "Anne Hutchinson Bridge."

Forthwith upon passage of this resolution, the members of the commission shall meet at the call of the Speaker of the House who shall select a chairperson from among the legislators. Vacancies in said commission shall be filled in like manner as the original appointment.

The membership of said commission shall receive no compensation for their services.

All departments and agencies of the state, shall furnish such advice and information, documentary and otherwise, to said commission and its agents as is deemed necessary or desirable by the commission to facilitate the purposes of this resolution.

The Speaker of the House is hereby authorized and directed to provide suitable quarters for said commission; and be it further

RESOLVED, That the commission shall report its findings and recommendations to the House of Representatives no later than February 3, 2009, and said commission shall expire on May 3, 2009.

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LC02187
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**SPECIAL HOUSE COMMISSION TO STUDY
RENAMING THE NEW SAKONNET BRIDGE AS THE
"ANNE HUTCHINSON BRIDGE"**

NOTICE OF MEETING

DATE: Wednesday, May 7, 2008

TIME: 2:00 P.M.

PLACE: Room 201 - State House

SUBJECT: ORGANIZATIONAL MEETING

Please contact Ruth at 222-2447 if you are unable to attend this meeting.

POSTED: MONDAY, MAY 5, 2008, 1:30 P.M.

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SPECIAL HOUSE COMMISSION TO STUDY RENAMING THE NEW
SAKONNET BRIDGE AS THE "ANNE HUTCHINSON BRIDGE"

Minutes of the May 7, 2008 Meeting

The following commissioners were present: Representative Amy Rice, Representative Charlene Lima, Nancy Parker Wilson, and Audrey Feld. Representative Bruce Long was absent. Also attending were John McCain and Valerie Debrule.

The meeting convened at 4:05 PM in Room 201 of the Rhode Island State House. House staff person, Patrick Burke, Esq. called the meeting to order and called for nominations for Chair. Ms. Wilson nominated Representative Rice and Ms. Feld seconded. There being no further nominations, the commission unanimously elected Representative Rice as its Chairwoman.

The Chairwoman informed the commission that this meeting's posted agenda had only one item and that was organization. However, the additional agenda items that she had wanted posted were inadvertently omitted. The Chairwoman read, into the record, the Open Meetings Law of the state of Rhode Island, §42-46-6 subsection B which states, in part, that "Nothing contained herein shall prevent a public body . . . from adding additional items to the agenda by majority vote of the members." Based upon this, the Chairwoman indicated that she would like to add to the agenda the following: (1) review of legislation that established commission, (2) discussion of goals and objectives, (3) questions from commission members, (4) receive testimony and recommendations for presentation to House of Representatives, and (5) adjournment. Ms. Parker motioned to add those items indicated by the Chairwoman; Ms. Feld seconded; vote passed unanimously. Upon further discussion of the agenda Representative Lima motioned to incorporate agenda items from both agendas; Ms. Parker seconded; vote passed unanimously.

Testimony began with Valerie Debrule of Friends of Anne Hutchinson of Aquidneck Island. Ms. Debrule testified that Anne Hutchinson was the first woman preacher and theologian in British North America (BNA); first woman to help found a settlement in BNA (Pocasset-Portsmouth, RI in 1638); first woman to hold meetings for women in BNA of which she stood trial; helped shape the tradition of free speech and religious tolerance that has become important to modern Americans; gave service to the women of Boston with her nursing, herbal and midwifery skills. Anne Hutchinson also dared to have a public voice during a time when women were defined by their husbands and despite being the mother of 14 children and an active preacher and midwife, she stood the ground of her faith at two Boston Puritan trials. She was subsequently banished from Massachusetts, like Roger Williams, with her followers. Ms. Debrule handed out copies of a Congressional Recognition from Congressman Langevin that states "In Recognition of Receiving the Junior League of Rhode Island 85th Anniversary 'Community Service Award' which was awarded posthumously on May 19, 2007. Ms. Debrule also showed the commission photographs of a long list of signatures in favor of recognition for Anne Hutchinson on Aquidneck Island. A small plaque was installed and is the only such monument tributed to Anne Hutchinson in Rhode Island. According to Ms. Debrule and the Chairwoman, it unfortunately is rather small and hidden away. Ms. Debrule further stated that there are thousands of Anne Hutchinson descendents in Rhode Island and around the world. Chairwoman Rice added that President George W. Bush is an Anne Hutchinson descendent.

Mr. John McCain of Newport testified that Anne Hutchinson has been referred to as "founding mother" a phrase that is germane for what Anne Hutchinson did. Anne Hutchinson and Roger Williams came from the same place-Boston, Massachusetts. Although not at the same time, both individuals were expelled and ex-communicated for their beliefs. Mr. McCain testified that Anne Hutchinson would memorize the Bible readings during church service and then return home to discuss the readings on Mondays to the women and later men, as well. The Puritans believed we were saved through destination, but Anne Hutchinson's theory believed it was through the grace of God we are saved through faith. Anne's discussions of the Bible constituted hearsay which led to her expulsion. Anne Hutchinson was then ex-communicated from Boston. However, at that time many folks supported her. Anne with her husband William organized her supporters to leave Boston and come to Rhode Island. Anne contacted Roger Williams to find land to buy from the Native Americans. The Native Americans sold Aquidneck Island to Anne, where she became their leader. She did not allow a church to be built on Aquidneck Island because she believed religion was individual.

Mr. McCain testified that after Anne's husband died in 1643, she moved to New York and was massacred by Native Americans where all but one of her ten children living in New York was saved. Mr. McCain felt that Rhode Island and Providence Plantations describe the dreams of two people - Rhode Island for Anne Hutchinson and Providence Plantations for Roger Williams. Mr. McCain pointed out that Anne's 1638 house on Common Fence Point is a stone's throw from the future site of the new bridge. Mr. McCain pointed out that there is an Anne Hutchinson statute in Boston and New York as well as there being the Hutchinson River with Hutchinson Parkway (bridge). He felt that the time has come to recognize Anne Hutchinson by naming the bridge after her, Eleanor Roosevelt said in 1945 that Anne Hutchinson is the most significant woman in American history prior to the American Revolution.

Ms. Audrey Feld, commissioner and Tiverton resident, spoke of her support for naming the new Sakonnet River bridge after Anne Hutchinson. Ms. Nancy Parker Wilson, commissioner and Portsmouth resident, spoke of her support for naming the new Sakonnet River bridge after Anne Hutchinson.

The Chairwoman called to see if there were any further witnesses to testify in favor or against - none came forward. Therefore, the Chairwoman closed all testimony.

The Chairwoman stated she received resolutions of support from Portsmouth, Middletown and Newport and letters of support from the Rhode Island Commission on Women, American Association of University Women, Rhode Island Minority Legislator Leadership Caucus, Rhode Island Women Legislative Caucus, Junior League of Rhode Island, League of Women Voters of RI, Patrick Conley, J.D., Ph.D. who is the Rhode Island Historian, Rhode Island National Organization of Women, Brown University Pembroke Center for Teaching and Research on Women, and the Friends of Anne Hutchinson. The Chairwoman received 21 letters of support from Rhode Island residents. Additionally, the Rhode Island Secretary of State's website states that Anne Hutchinson is the first female founder of a town in America.

The Commission agreed to meet again in the State House so it could receive any additional input and take up a vote based upon the testimony heard.

Respectfully submitted,

Emilie Joyal

HOUSE SPECIAL HOUSE COMMISSION TO STUDY RENAMING THE NEW SAKONNET BRIDGE AS THE "ANNE HUTCHINSON BRIDGE"

NOTICE OF MEETING

DATE: Wednesday, June 4, 2008
TIME: 2:00 PM
PLACE: Room 203- State House

AGENDA:

1. Review of minutes of previous meeting
2. Hearing of alternate names
3. Consideration of testimony and recommendations
4. Adjournment

Representative Amy G. Rice
Chairperson

Please contact Emilie Joyal at 222-1716 if you are unable to attend this meeting.

POSTED: MONDAY, JUNE 2, 2008, 11:45 A.M.

As always, your comments concerning this page are welcomed and appreciated.

Thank you for stopping by!

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SPECIAL HOUSE COMMISSION TO STUDY RENAMING THE NEW
SAKONNET RIVER BRIDGE AS THE "ANNE HUTCHINSON BRIDGE"

Minutes of the June 4, 2008 Meeting

The following commissioners were present: Representative Amy Rice, Chairman; Representative Charlene Lima, and Audrey Feld. Nancy Parker Wilson had an accident earlier in the day that prevented her attendance. Representative Bruce Long was absent.

The meeting convened at 2:45 PM in Room 203 of the Rhode Island State House.

Chairwoman Rice discussed the agenda and purpose for the commission.

The minutes from the last meeting were distributed and reviewed. Representative Amy Rice asked that two documents be added to the minutes.

The first document was an editorial published by the *Providence Journal* in support of renaming the Sakonnet River Bridge the Anne Hutchinson Bridge. The second was a letter submitted by the Department of Transportation informing the Commission that no bridges in Rhode Island are named after a woman.

A motion was made by Representative Charlene Lima to approve the minutes. Audrey Feld seconded the motion. The minutes as amended passed unanimously.

Chairwoman Rice then went into hallway to call witnesses to testify for alternate bridge names. There were no witnesses for alternate names.

Chairwoman Rice then shared and presented the commission members with cases for alternate names.

Representative John Laughlin of Tiverton, who co-sponsored the creation of the commission, had previously suggested in January of 2006 that Robert Gray be an alternate name for the Sakonnet River Bridge. Robert Gray was a naval war hero and was the first man to carry the American flag around the earth. Representative Lima asked if proponents of this name contacted the commission in writing. The Chairwoman responded that they did not.

The second name to be suggested was John Clarke. In February of 2006, the John Clarke Trust sent a letter and called him a 'founding father' of Rhode Island stating that "Clarke joined Anne Hutchinson to found Portsmouth." Chairwoman Rice and Audrey Feld stated that Newport honored John Clarke several times with the last one recently.

Chairwoman Rice then discussed the 2008 legislation sponsored by Senator June Gibbs proposing to rename the Sakonnet River Bridge the "Pocasset Bridge" at the request of Norman Champagne. The Chairwoman stated that Pocasset was the original name of Portsmouth. Audrey Feld pointed out that there is presently a school in Tiverton named Pocasset.

Representative Lima asked if there were council resolutions from Newport, Portsmouth and Middletown supporting the renaming of the bridge to the Anne Hutchinson Bridge. Representative Rice stated that she received one from Portsmouth, Middletown and Newport.

Representative Lima then made a motion to name the new Sakonnet River Bridge the Anne Hutchinson Bridge. Audrey Feld seconded the motion. Chairwoman Rice requested that the motion be put on hold; Representative Lima withdrew the motion.

Chairwoman Rice wanted to add that there was a proposal that the Sakonnet River Bridge should be named the Hutchinson-Gray Bridge. Chairwoman Rice never received any correspondence regarding this. Representative Lima stated that she assumed that the hyphenated name supporters are aware of the commission, but they have not sent any correspondence on the hyphenated name issue, and she appreciated the Chairwoman's due diligence in bringing that up. Representative Lima then made another motion to rename the new Sakonnet River Bridge the Anne Hutchinson Bridge. Audrey Feld seconded this motion. The commission then voted and the motion passed unanimously.

The commission then recommended renaming the new Sakonnet River Bridge the Anne Hutchinson Bridge. Chairwoman Rice asked if there was any need to hold further meetings and the commission members agreed that there was no reason to hold any additional commission meetings. The Chairwoman accepted a motion to adjourn from Ms. Feld; motion was seconded by Representative Lima; unanimously passed. The commission adjourned at 3:45 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Adriana Thomas

SUMMARY

WHEREAS, Anne Hutchinson came to Rhode Island, as did Roger Williams, to escape religious bigotry and persecution in Massachusetts. She was the first woman preacher and theologian in British North America, and the first woman to establish a settlement in British North America (Pocasset-Portsmouth in 1638). She was also the first woman to hold meetings for women in British North America, for which she was put on trial; and

WHEREAS, In many ways, Anne Hutchinson was a "Founding Mother" of the State of Rhode Island and of this great nation. In 1945, Eleanor Roosevelt stated that Anne Hutchinson was "the most significant woman in American history prior to the American Revolution". Anne Hutchinson helped to shape the tradition of free speech and religious tolerance that is fundamental to modern America. She dared to have a public voice during a time when women, and their role in daily life, was defined by their husbands; and

WHEREAS, Inadequately, in Rhode Island, the only public tribute to Anne Hutchinson is a small plaque on Boyd's Lane in Portsmouth. Boston and New York have erected Anne Hutchinson statues, and New York also has the Hutchinson Parkway (Bridge) and named a river after her (Hutchinson River). According to the Rhode Island Department of Transportation, no bridges in Rhode Island are named after a woman; and

WHEREAS, There is overwhelming support for renaming the Sakonnet River Bridge the "Anne Hutchinson Bridge". The Providence Journal published an editorial in support of renaming the bridge in her honor, and the Towns of Portsmouth, Middletown and Newport passed a resolution in favor of renaming the Sakonnet River Bridge in honor of Anne Hutchinson. A variety of public interest organizations also support this proposal including: the Rhode Island Commission on Women; the American Association of University Women; the Rhode Island Minority Legislative Leadership Caucus; the Rhode Island Women's Legislative Caucus; the League of Women Voters of Rhode Island; the Rhode Island National Organization of Women; the Junior League of Rhode Island; the Brown University Pembroke Center for Teaching and Research on Women; the Friends of Anne Hutchinson; and Patrick Conley, J.D., PhD., the Rhode Island Historian.

RECOMMENDATIONS

The Special Commission To Study Renaming The New Sakonnet Bridge as the "Anne Hutchinson Bridge" has conducted a thorough hearing at which all interested parties were welcomed to give testimony, present materials, and offer their views on the subject. After listening to the witnesses and reading the various documents on her life, it became abundantly clear to the entire membership of the Commission that Anne Hutchinson was eminently worthy of renaming this bridge in her honor, given the crucial role she played in Rhode Island's and our nation's history, as an early pioneer who supported equality for women and religious liberty for all. The Commission also discovered that to date no bridge in the State of Rhode Island has been named in recognition of a woman's contributions to the development of our state. This historical injustice would be corrected by renaming the New Sakonnet Bridge the "Anne Hutchinson Bridge".

To date, the only recognition Ann Hutchinson has been awarded in Rhode Island is a small plaque on Boyd's Lane in Portsmouth, even though she played an extremely crucial role on behalf of equality in America as well as Rhode Island. There is overwhelming support, from a diverse group of people and organizations, for renaming the New Sakonnet Bridge in her honor. Renaming the bridge the "Anne Hutchinson Bridge" would be a fitting and appropriate tribute, particularly because Anne's house was built in 1638 on Common Point Fence, and is a stone's throw away from the future site of the new bridge.

The Providence Journal

Founded in 1829

Howard G. Sutton
PUBLISHER

Joel P. Rawson
SENIOR VICE PRESIDENT
AND EXECUTIVE EDITOR

Robert B. Whitcomb
VICE PRESIDENT AND
EDITORIAL-PAGES EDITOR

Publishers of

The Providence Journal
Since 1829

The Providence Sunday
Journal since 1885

The Evening Bulletin
1863-1995

Sevellon Brown
PUBLISHER 1942-1954

John C.A. Watkins
PUBLISHER 1954-1979

Michael P. Metcalf
PUBLISHER 1979-1987

Stephen Hamblett
PUBLISHER 1987-1999

EDITORIALS

Anne Hutchinson Bridge

Roger Williams rightly takes pride of place in the pantheon of Rhode Island's founders. But Anne Hutchinson, who was also exiled by the Puritans but failed to install religious liberty in the Portsmouth she founded, is no historical slouch, either. Several major landmarks bear Williams's name but none bear Hutchinson's.

Or any other women, for that matter — so says state Rep. Amy Rice, who submitted a bill to name

the new (though still unbuilt) Sakonnet River Bridge for Hutchinson. A cabal of male reps scotched Ms. Rice's bill for this compromise: the New Sakonnet River Bridge.

That unimaginative name sounds like a place-holder for some future cabal to slip in a (male?) politician's moniker, probably behind closed doors in the dead of night. Why not name it for Anne Hutchinson, openly and proudly?

STATE OF RHODE ISLAND AND PROVIDENCE PLANTATIONS



Michael P. Lewis
Director

Department of Transportation
OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR
Two Capitol Hill
Providence, R.I. 02903-1124

OFFICE (401) 222-2481
FAX (401) 222-2086
TDD (401) 222-4971

May 29, 2008

The Honorable Amy G. Rice
438 Bramans Lane
Portsmouth, Rhode Island 02871

Dear Representative Rice:

At your request I have researched the Rhode Island General Laws to determine whether any bridges under state control have been named after a woman. *RIGL 22-7.4 Permanent Joint Committee on Naming all New Buildings, Bridges, Edifices and Other State Constructions* lists all State properties that have been assigned a name by the General Assembly. I was unable to find any bridges that were named after a woman.

Again, the authority of naming state constructions lies with RIGL 22-7.4. Accordingly, I have attached a copy of the General Law for your review.

If you have any further questions, please let me know.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Bernard Frezza", is written over a horizontal line.

Bernard Frezza
Legislative Liaison

CHAPTER 7.4
PERMANENT JOINT COMMITTEE ON NAMING ALL NEW BUILDINGS, BRIDGES,
EDIFICES AND
OTHER STATE CONSTRUCTIONS

Sec.

- 22-7.4-1. Permanent committee - Composition.
- 22-7.4-2. Selection of officers.
- 22-7.4-3. Duties.
- 22-7.4-4. Reports and recommendations.
- 22-7.4-5. Technical assistance.
- 22-7.4-6. References to committee.
- 22-7.4-6.1. Reference of bills to state planning council.
- 22-7.4-7. Place of meeting - Quorum.
- 22-7.4-8. The Major-General Nathanael-Greene Bridge.
- 22-7.4-9. The Hugo L. Ricci, Sr. Memorial Bridge.
- 22-7.4-10. The Doreen A. Tomlinson Memorial Fields.
- 22-7.4-11. The Representative Aldo Freda Memorial Bridge.
- 22-7.4-12. The Robert Paul Arrigan Memorial Sailing Facility.
- 22-7.4-12.1. The Betty and Stephen Campanella Rowing Center.
- 22-7.4-13. The Gardner "Scup" Seveney State Highway Garage.
- 22-7.4-14. The A. Edgar Lussier Memorial Bridge.
- 22-7.4-15. The Harold Fell Field.
- 22-7.4-16. The Henry H. Mackal Field House.
- 22-7.4-17. The Frank E. Furtado Building.
- 22-7.4-18. The Albert E. Carlotti Building.
- 22-7.4-19. The Robert A. DeWolf Anatomy Laboratory.
- 22-7.4-20. The Chicoine House.
- 22-7.4-21. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Bridge.
- 22-7.4-22. The Mildred L. LaBelle House.
- 22-7.4-23. 1st Lieutenant Robert W. Lancaster Memorial Bridge.
- 22-7.4-24. The Florence Kerins Murray Court House.
- 22-7.4-25. Vietnam Veterans' Memorial Bridge.
- 22-7.4-26. The Salty Brine State Beach.
- 22-7.4-27. The Joseph A. Russo Bridge.
- 22-7.4-28. The William E. Powers Building.
- 22-7.4-29. Jack A. St. Jean Memorial Square.
- 22-7.4-30. John E. Fogarty Court Building.
- 22-7.4-31. The James L. Baldwin Bridge.
- 22-7.4-32. The Samuel A. Engdahl Bridge.

22-7.4-33. John O. Pastore Public Broadcasting Center.
22-7.4-34. The John O. Pastore Center.
22-7.4-35. The Forman Center.
22-7.4-36. The Iwo Jima Memorial Highway.
22-7.4-37. The Ralph L. Rathier Bridge.
22-7.4-38. The Professor Emeritus Foster H. Middleton Building.
22-7.4-39. The Professor Emeritus Herman E. Sheets Building.
22-7.4-40. Amaral Brothers Bridge.
22-7.4-41. The Peter J. O'Connell Building.
22-7.4-42. The Joseph F. Lambert Memorial Little League Field.
22-7.4-43. The Patrick F. McNamara Bridge.
22-7.4-44. The Gloria DiSandro McDonald Building.
22-7.4-45. The John-J. Moran Facility.
22-7.4-46. The Chester H. Kirk Complex.
22-7.4-47. The Bruce Sundlun Terminal Building.
22-7.4-48. The John Eldred Parkway.
22-7.4-48.1. The Mary Brennan Parkway.
22-7.4-49. The Korean War Veterans Memorial Highway.
22-7.4-50. The Peter D'Abrosca Bridge.
22-7.4-51. The C. Richard Skogley Turfgrass Research Center.
22-7.4-52. The Donald Price Facility.
22-7.4-53. The John Nazarian Facility.
22-7.4-54. James J. Federico, Jr. State Beach Pavilion.
22-7.4-55. The Louis Alfano Building.
22-7.4-56. The Orlando Bisbano Building.
22-7.4-57. The Amvets Memorial Highway.
22-7.4-58. Bruce Sundlun Road.
22-7.4-59. Citizens Square and Ferrante Square.
22-7.4-60. Manton Village Bridge.
22-7.4-61. The Edward J. Liston Campus.
22-7.4-62. Preston S. and Ann V. Babbitt Memorial Wildlife Refuge.
22-7.4-63. The Thomas Byrnes Bike Path.
22-7.4-64. George Sears Greene Memorial Bridge.
22-7.4-65. Judge Paul Del Nero District Courtroom.
22-7.4-66. American Legion Highway.
22-7.4-67. Upper Pond Drive.
22-7.4-68. John E. Rebello Memorial Bridge and Tunnel.
22-7.4-69. The John H. Chafee Transportation Operations and Maintenance Center.
22-7.4-70. The William Bruce Richardson and Ronald E. Blake Memorial Traffic Island.
22-7.4-71. The Ann Gall Durbin Aquarium Building.
22-7.4-72. The Eddie Dowling Highway.

22-7.4-73. Louis Jagschitz State Pier.
22-7.4-74. The Bradford R. Boss Ice Arena.
22-7.4-75. The Vincent Cullen Fieldhouse.
22-7.4-76. The Thomas M. Ryan Convocation Center.
22-7.4-77. Lincoln Almond Plaza and Robert Weygand Plaza.
22-7.4-78. The Blount Aquaculture Research Facility.
22-7.4-79. Frank Newman Hall.
22-7.4-80. Heidi Kirk Duffy International Engineering House.
22-7.4-81. William C. O'Neill Bike Path.
22-7.4-82. Veterans' Way.
22-7.4-83. The Murray Center.
22-7.4-84. The Gladys Carr Bolhouse Connector Road.
22-7.4-85. The John H. Chafee Research Vessel.
22-7.4-86. Joseph F. Kauffman Center.
22-7.4-87. The Charles E. Maynard Building.
22-7.4-88. The Garden of Heroes.
22-7.4-89. Veterans' Memorial Highway.
22-7.4-90. The Dr. Ando Suvari Long-Term Care Center.
22-7.4-91. The Zeke Harris Corner.
22-7.4-92. Paul V. Sherlock Center for Disabilities.
22-7.4-93. The Lance Corporal Victor Patrick Andreozzi and Vietnam Veterans Bridge.
22-7.4-94. The George Redman Linear Park.
22-7.4-95. The Fred Lippitt Woonasquatucket River Greenway.
22-7.4-96. The Joseph "Jay" P. Kirwin Rugby Pitch.
22-7.4-97. Captain Matthew J. August Memorial Bridge.
22-7.4-98. Texas Instruments House.
22-7.4-99. Wiley Hall.
22-7.4-100. Fire Fighters Memorial Square.
22-7.4-101. Eddy Hall.
22-7.4-102. The Sgt. Timothy R. Giblin Highway.
22-7.4-103. Garrahy Hall.
22-7.4-104. Charles "Ted" Wright Rotary.
22-7.4-105. The Roosevelt Benton Youth Assessment Center.

22-7.4-1. Permanent committee - Composition.

There is created a permanent joint committee of the general assembly on naming all new buildings, bridges, edifices, and other state constructions to consist of seven (7) members of the general assembly, four (4) of whom shall be from the house of representatives to be appointed by the speaker, not more than three (3) of whom shall be from the same political party; three (3) of whom shall be from the senate to be appointed by the president of the senate, not more than two



May 10, 2008

Amy G. Rice
Room B07-A, State House
Providence, RI 02903

Dear Representative Rice,

On behalf of AAUWRI, thank you for telling me about the status of renaming the Sakonnet Bridge for Anne Hutchinson. In my view, study commissions go on forever, but if this one leads to naming the bridge for Anne we support it.

I have included a copy of the resolution that AAUWRI passed on May 3, 2006. It includes all the many reasons why the bridge should be named for Anne, a founding mother and supporter of the rights of religious freedom. It is especially fitting since the bridge itself is a stone's throw from where she settled in north Portsmouth.

Thank you, Amy, for your continuing support to have the bridge named in memory of Anne.

Sincerely,

Judith Terry, President
American Association of University Women RI

enclosure



Resolved: On May 3, 2006, we, the members of the Newport County E. Bay branch of the American Association of University Women – RI support the renaming of the Sakonnet River Bridge to the Anne Hutchinson Bridge.

Whereas, as Roger Williams, Anne Hutchinson was expelled from the Massachusetts Bay Colony by the court there for questioning the official MBC dogma (MBC was a religious state based on being saved by works with no questioning allowed.) Hence, both of these RI founders were driven out of the MBC.

Whereas, both of these RI founders traveled to RI where each of them established a new colony. RW-Providence and AH-Portsmouth. Both RI colonies espoused religious freedom.

Whereas, Roger Williams has been lauded throughout the centuries since then; Anne Hutchinson has not.

Whereas, Roger Williams has had many public structures named for him including a university in Bristol, RI. Anne has no public structure named for her in RI. In fact there is no public structure named for a woman in RI anywhere in the state.

Whereas, Anne Hutchinson has been recognized both by MA, from which she was expelled, by a larger than life bronze statue outside the State House and by NY where she moved after her husband died. The Hutchinson River and Hutchinson River Parkway bear her name. There is also an annual Anne Hutchinson Day in NY.

Whereas, it is time this state honored the Founding Mother of RI by naming a public structure in her honor. Renaming the Sakonnet River Bridge to the Anne Hutchinson Bridge would accomplish this long overdue goal.

Signed -

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Judith L. Terry", written over a horizontal line.

Judith Terry, President, AAUW -RI



RHODE ISLAND COMMISSION ON WOMEN

June 13, 2006

Commissioners

Joyce J. Dolbec, M.A. *Chair*

Linda H. Newton *1st Vice-Chair*

Carol Gibbons, Ph.D. *2nd Vice
Chair*

Joanne M. Hill, *Treasurer*

Jan Torres, *Secretary*

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Mary Anne Miller, RN, MPH

Lela Morgan, M.A.

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Marilyn Cocozza Trillo

Anna Tucker

Beverly Turner

Camille Vollaro, M.A.

The Honorable Robert Watson

Tracy E. Williams

Shanna Wells, M.Ed. *Director*

The Honorable Steven M. Costantino, Representative
Chairperson, House Finance Committee
State House
Providence, RI 02903

RE: House Bill 6778—Renaming the new Sakonnet Bridge

Dear Representative Costantino:

The Rhode Island Commission on Women (RICW) asks you to support *House Bill 6778—Relating to Renaming the New Sakonnet Bridge, Aquidneck Island.*

Here in Rhode Island, everyone knows about Roger Williams and how he made it his mission to promote religious freedom and actions of conscience. His name has been attached to landmarks throughout the state, and he is recognized proudly as Rhode Island's founding father.

But fewer people are aware of Anne Hutchinson and the role she played in our state. Before she died, she established the first women's group in American history and tested the principle of freedom of speech. Banished from Massachusetts for espousing religious freedom, Hutchinson and her family established a colony in Portsmouth, RI, which subsequently led to the founding of Newport.

Anne Hutchinson is a woman to be admired by any of us who believe in the rights of the individual to freedom of thought, speech, and worship. It may be difficult for us to imagine what it was like living under Puritan rule in the newly established American colonies, especially if you were a woman, as at that point in our history, women were not allowed to think for themselves or to voice their own opinions.

Currently, there are no bridges in Rhode Island named after notable women, though Rhode Island has its fair share of bright, courageous women who have made a difference. It seems fitting that the bridge that leads to the settlement she founded should only be named after Rhode Island's founding mother.

It is for this reason the RICW urges you to support House Bill 6778. Please honor this extraordinary woman, and in doing so, set a precedent for valuing the contributions of the women of Rhode Island.

Sincerely,

Joyce J. Dolbec /sw

Joyce J. Dolbec
Chairperson

TOWN OF PORTSMOUTH, RI

RESOLUTION # 2006-02-27 A

WHEREAS: The Portsmouth Town Council at their regularly scheduled Town Council Meeting of February 27, 2006, voted to support a Resolution introduced by State Representative Amy G. Rice requesting the renaming of bridge number 250, presently named the Sakonnet River Bridge, and

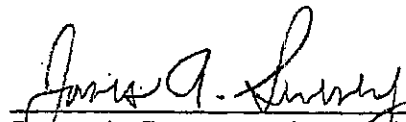
WHEREAS: Portsmouth was settled in 1638 as the second settlement in the area, with Anne Hutchinson as leader of the settlement. Portsmouth became the first community founded in the New World by a woman, and

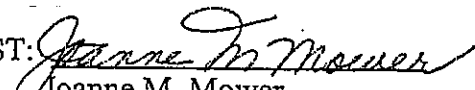
WHEREAS: Anne Hutchinson's bravery and determination to stand up for her beliefs helped make Rhode Island a free place for all people.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED:

The Portsmouth Town Council respectfully requests that the new Sakonnet River Bridge be renamed honoring Anne Hutchinson, a founder of Portsmouth.

Adopted by the Portsmouth Town Council February 27, 2006.


James A. Seveney, Vice President,
Portsmouth Town Council

ATTEST: 
Joanne M. Mower,
Deputy Town Clerk

THE TOWN OF MIDDLETOWN

RESOLUTION

OF THE

COUNCIL

No.

WHEREAS: In 1638, Anne Hutchinson, banished from the Massachusetts Bay Colony for her liberal beliefs, arrived on the northern end of Aquidneck Island and established a settlement known then as Pocasset, and

WHEREAS: A leader for the rights of religious freedom and gender equality, Anne Hutchinson used her considerable intellect and influence to lay a foundation of tolerance and independence which continue to characterize modern Rhode Island, and

WHEREAS: It is fitting, indeed, that Rhode Island recognize Anne Hutchinson, her efforts and life's work in a permanent memorial to her considerable accomplishments.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE-IT-----

RESOLVED: The Town Council of the Town of Middletown supports legislation, introduced by the Honorable Amy G. Rice, said legislation proposing to rename bridge No. 250, known as the New Sakonnet Bridge, and extending between the Towns of Tiverton and Portsmouth, in honor of Anne Hutchinson.

READ AND PASSED IN COUNCIL

Barbara L. Nash

BARBARA L. NASH
TOWN CLERK

THE CITY OF NEWPORT

RESOLUTION

OF THE
COUNCIL

NO. 2006-87

WHEREAS, House Bill 6778 was introduced into the RI General Assembly by Representatives Rice, Gallison, Jackson and Crowley, to amend Chapter 22-7.4 of the RI General Laws, entitled, "Permanent Joint Committee on Naming All New Buildings, Bridges, Edifices and Other State Construction," to add a new section 22-7.4-94, Anne Hutchinson Bridge; and

WHEREAS, Anne Marbury Hutchinson (1591-1643) played a vital role in the founding of Portsmouth, RI, in March of 1638, making it the first settlement on Aquidneck Island; and

WHEREAS, passage of this Act will officially rename the Sakonnet Bridge, connecting the Towns of Portsmouth and Tiverton, as the "Anne Hutchinson Bridge," a fitting tribute to Anne Hutchinson, not only for her role in the founding of Portsmouth, but to one who has also been credited with being the first American woman to lead the public fight for religious diversity and female quality. NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT

RESOLVED: the Council of the City of Newport hereby voices its support for renaming the Sakonnet Bridge to that of the Anne Hutchinson Bridge and urges the Legislative Delegations of the City of Newport and the Towns of Middletown and Portsmouth to strive for passage of H-6778.

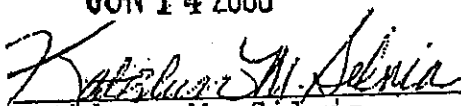
JEANNE-MARIE NAPOLITANO

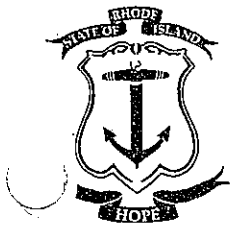
MARY C. CONNOLLY

STEPHEN R. COYNE

IN COUNCIL
READ AND PASSED

JUN 14 2006


Kathleen M. Silvia
City Clerk



State of Rhode Island and Providence Plantations

GENERAL ASSEMBLY

RHODE ISLAND MINORITY LEGISLATOR/LEADERSHIP CAUCUS

June 6, 2006

Rep. Joseph S. Almeida
Chairman

Sen. Juan M. Pichardo
Vice Chairman

Rep. Gordon D. Fox
House Majority Leader

Rep. Grace Diaz
Treasurer

Sen. Harold M. Metts
Chaplin

Rep. Anastasia P. Williams

Hon. Maria Lopes
Director

Honorable Amy G. Rice
2431 East Main Road
Portsmouth, RI 02871

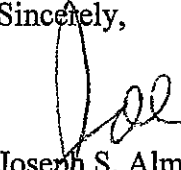
Dear Representative Rice:

Thank you for your recent e-mail regarding the renaming of the Sakonnet Bridge to the Anne Hutchinson Bridge.

After reading the thorough outline of Ms. Hutchinson's accomplishments I can see how it would make the most sense to name the bridge after her. You have certainly done your homework and I commend your spirit. It would be a great honor, not only to Ms. Hutchinson's memory, but also to all of the women of this great state to have a bridge named after a woman.

Therefore, count me in as one who will vote in the affirmative if and when this legislation comes to the House floor for a vote. I will do my best to recommend to my fellow members of the Minority Caucus to do the same. Good luck.

Sincerely,


Joseph S. Almeida
Chair/RI Minority Legislator/Leadership Caucus
Representative - District 12 - Providence

JSA:mjb
cc: Caucus Members

State of Rhode Island and Providence Plantations

SENATOR
M. TERESA PAIVA WEED
Majority Leader
Room 318A, State House
Providence, Rhode Island 02903
District 13



State House: 401-222-3310
Email: sen-paivaweed@rillin.state.ri.us

Senate Chamber

July 14, 2006

Mr. John McCain
75 Ayrault Street
Newport, RI 02840

Dear Mr. McCain:

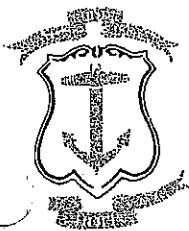
Please allow me a moment to thank you for taking the time to contact me regarding your request for my support of House bill 2006H – 6778, “An Act Relating to Renaming the New Sakonnet Bridge, Aquidneck Island.”

Let me begin by saying that I strongly support any measure that pays homage to Anne Hutchinson, a remarkable woman regarded as Rhode Island’s and Aquidneck Island’s founding mother and the voice for social equality among genders in the early 1600’s. Despite Representative Rice’s best efforts, this legislation was amended on the House floor to name the bridge “Hutchinson/Gray”. Representative Rice requested that the Senate not pass the bill as amended.

I look forward to working with Representative Rice on this issue when the legislature returns in January. In the meantime, if I can be of further assistance to you in this or any other matter, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,

M. Teresa Paiva Weed
Senate Majority Leader



State of Rhode Island and Providence Plantations

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

REPRESENTATIVE AMY G. RICE District 72

February 28 2006

Dear Representatives and Senators,

On behalf of Representative Giannini and Senator Gallo, I hereby respectfully request a quick emergency meeting or email consensus for a resolution to rename the New Sakonnet Bridge in honor of Anne Hutchinson. This will be the first bridge to be named after a woman.

Anne Hutchinson was instrumental in the establishment of a colony on Aquidneck Island and a leader for the rights of religious freedom and gender equality. Massachusetts has honored her with a statue that sits in front of its state house, and New York has named a major four-lane highway after her. I feel this would be a fitting honor to acknowledge her important role in our state's history as the founder of Aquidneck Island. I would sincerely appreciate your support in renaming this bridge for Anne Hutchinson. This legislation, H 6778, will be heard this Friday by the House Finance Committee at noon. As with many other bridges, it will likely remain referenced to as the "Sakonnet Bridge", even after a name change. The Portsmouth Town Council passed a resolution in favor of this name change and the Daughters of the American Revolution has expressed their support for this legislation.

Please contact Representative Giannini, Senator Gallo or respond to this email. Thank you in anticipation of your cooperation.

Sincerely,

Amy G. Rice

Amy G. Rice, Esquire
State Representative
Dist. 72 - Portsmouth-Middletown-Newport

AGR/las

Q

*yes! yes! yes!
Betty D*

Amy

*Cherie
Culver*



THE JUNIOR LEAGUE OF
RHODE ISLAND, INC.
*Women building better communities**

May 8, 2006

To Whom It May Concern:

The Board of Directors of The Junior League of Rhode Island, Inc. has voted to support Amy Rice's H 6778 Bill to change the name of the Sakonnet River Bridge to the Anne Hutchinson Bridge. As a women's organization, we feel that it is important for the state leadership to recognize the women who were a crucial part of Rhode Island and American history.

Thank you for your consideration,

Elizabeth W. Newberry
2005-2006 President

The Junior League of Rhode Island, Inc.

Mission

The Junior League of Rhode Island, Inc. is an organization of women committed to promoting voluntarism, developing the potential of women, and improving communities through the effective action and leadership of trained volunteers. Its purpose is educational and charitable.

Reaching Out

The Junior League of Rhode Island, Inc. reaches out to women of all races, religions, and national origins. It encourages their interest and commitment to voluntarism.

Vision

The Junior League of Rhode Island, Inc. strives to meet the immediate needs of the community at large through the effective action and leadership of trained volunteers, with an emphasis on women and children.

21 Meeting Street, Providence, RI 02903
T 401.331.9302 F 401.331.0517



LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS
OF RHODE ISLAND
~~PO BOX 28678~~
~~PROVIDENCE, RI 02908~~
~~(401) 453-1111~~

172, Taunton Avenue, #8
East Providence, RI 02914
www.lwvri.org
April 10, 2006

To: Rep. Steven M. Costantino
Chair, House Finance Committee

The League of Women Voters supports passage of H 6778 because it feels that is appropriate that the person who purchased Aquidneck Island from the Narragansetts and established what is now the town of Portsmouth be recognized for that accomplishment.

After immigrating from England to Massachusetts, Anne Hutchinson started a Bible discussion group for women. However, Hutchinson's intelligence and ideas soon attracted a wide following of men as well as women. Alarmed because Hutchinson's beliefs did not conform to the official religion in Massachusetts, she was tried for heresy and banned from the colony in March 1638.

Banished from Boston, Anne Hutchinson with her husband, children and 60 followers settled in the land of Narragansetts, from whose chief, Miantonomah, they purchased the island of Aquidneck (Peaceable Island), now part of Rhode Island. In March, 1638 they founded the town of Pocasset, the Indian name for that locality; the name "Portsmouth" was given to the settlement in 1639. Here they established that colony's first civil government.

Excerpt from "Notable Women Ancestors" Roots Web
<http://www.rootsweb.com/~nwa/ah.html>

Anne Hutchinson is a woman to be admired by any of us who believe in the rights of the individual to freedom of thought, freedom of speech, and freedom to worship.

Real heroes are people who in the face of adversity, refuse to betray their ideals or ethics, no matter what the cost.

Anne Hutchinson was such a woman.
Excerpt from <http://www.annehutchinson.com/>

Hollie Courage, President

PATRICK T. CONLEY, J.D., Ph.D.

*Attorney at Law
1445 Wampanoag Trail, Suite 203
East Providence, Rhode Island 02915*

*Telephone: 401-273-1787 and 401-272-1776
Fax: 401-273-1791*

March 2, 2006

Rep. Amy G. Rice
State House
Providence, RI 02903

Dear Rep. Rice:

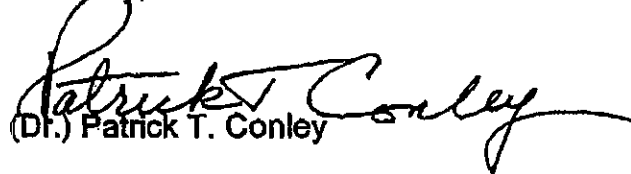
I believe that the naming of the new Sakonnet Bridge in honor of Anne Hutchinson is a splendid idea.

The southern terminus of the bridge will touch on the boundaries of her original Portsmouth settlement—a town distinguished for its religious liberty and democratic traditions.

Anne Hutchinson was the most prominent female in 17th century America. Along with William Coddington and her husband William, Anne was a founder of Portsmouth.

The first essay in my most recent book about Rhode Island contains a statement of Anne Hutchinson's significance. It is entitled, "Portsmouth's Founding Mother: Anne Hutchinson." She richly deserves to be honored in the manner which you have suggested.

Sincerely,


(Dr.) Patrick T. Conley

PTC:aml



March 6, 2007

Representative Amy G. Rice, Esquire
c/o House Judiciary Committee
Room 205
State House
Providence, RI 02903

Dear Representative Rice,

On behalf of the Rhode Island National Organization for Women, I am writing in support of House Bill No. 5077, entitled *An Act Relating to Renaming the New Sakonnet Bridge, Aquidneck Island*, in honor of Anne Hutchinson.

Through this bridge naming, the Rhode Island legislature has an opportunity to honor a woman who was a true champion of religious freedom and women's rights. Anne Hutchinson played a vital role in the founding of Rhode Island in the establishment of a settlement on Aquidneck Island in today's town of Portsmouth. She contributed to the development of Rhode Island and the nation as one of the first women to lead the fight for religious tolerance and gender equality. Her advocacy of religious freedom became one of the founding principles in our nation's constitution.

Anne Hutchinson has been called the United States' first woman preacher and first feminist. Naming this bridge after Anne Hutchinson (the first bridge to be named for a woman) will honor her legacy and her contributions to Rhode Island, as well as spotlight a positive role model for girls and boys alike.

We encourage legislators in the House and Senate to support this important naming opportunity.

Sincerely,

Carolyn Mark, President
RI NOW



BROWN

Pembroke Center for Teaching
and Research on Women

February 5, 2007

The Honorable Amy G. Rice, Esq.
Rhode Island House of Representatives
c/o House Judiciary Committee
Room 205
Rhode Island State House
Providence, RI 02903

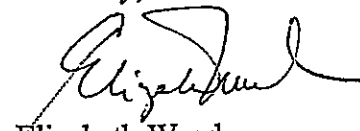
Dear Representative Rice:

I am pleased to offer my support for your legislation to rename the new Sakonnet Bridge in honor of Anne Hutchison.

Your legislation honoring Anne Hutchison is a fitting tribute to a Rhode Island woman who took courageous stands for religious freedom and gender equality.

I wish you the very best of luck in your endeavors.

Sincerely,



Elizabeth Weed
Director



THE FRIENDS OF
ANNE HUTCHINSON
11 Cherry Creek Rd.
Newport, RI 02840

February 14, 2006

Amy G. Rice, Esq. State Representative, Dist. 72
Portsmouth, Middletown, Newport
2431 East Main Rd.
Portsmouth, RI 02871

Dear Ms. Rice:

The Friends of Anne Hutchinson want to give our full support to bill #6737 proposing the naming of the Sakonnet Bridge to The Anne Hutchinson Bridge. We believe Anne Marbury Hutchinson is an important historical figure worthy of this honor.

Anne Hutchinson is a nationally-known heroine of **religious freedom**. She is considered the first white female in British North America who was a **theologian, preacher, and co-founder of a new settlement**. Few women of that early settlement period- 1630-50- are known by name. Anne Hutchinson's name has stayed alive for 350- plus years because she was a woman ahead of her time.

She was the mother of 14 children as well as a midwife, nurse and spiritual leader who provided great service to the women of Boston. She was a charismatic, articulate, and educated woman who conducted the first group meetings of women in the New World to discuss theology. Anne Hutchinson discouraged a war with the local Indians and challenged the Boston magistrates and church leaders in two famous trials where she defended her own religious beliefs. She is part of the legacy that helped shape the tradition of free speech and religious tolerance that has become important to modern Americans. The reputation of Rhode Island itself as a haven for religious freedom began with the names Roger Williams and Anne Hutchinson.

The Sakonnet Bridge is an ideal memorial for the name of Anne Hutchinson because it is likely the trail taken by the Hutchinsonians to settle in Pocasset (Portsmouth) in 1638 after being expelled from Boston. The original Hutchinson property is within sight of the bridge in Portsmouth, and it would be an honor to have the only bridge in Rhode Island named for a woman.

Boston has a bronze statue at the State House in her memory; New York (where she was massacred with her family) dedicated the 18-mile Hutchinson Parkway to her memory. Naming the Tiverton- Portsmouth bridge the Anne Hutchinson Bridge will mean that Rhode Island recognizes her importance in local and national history. We support your bill and would like to come to the State House in March. We appreciate your knowledge of women's history.

Sincerely,


Valerie Debrule

Chairwoman, The Friends of Anne Hutchinson
(401)846-8439 cherrycreek@efortress.com



the Women's Fund

OF RHODE ISLAND

ONE UNION STATION
PROVIDENCE, RI 02903

WWW.WFRI.ORG

PHONE 401.274.4564

FAX 401.331.8085

*Advancing social justice
for women and girls*

Joan McMaster
P.O. Box 857
Bristol, RI 02809

Dear Joan,

At our last board meeting the Women's Fund of Rhode Island addressed your request for an endorsement of the proposal to rename the Sakonnet River Bridge, changing the name to the Anne Hutchinson Bridge.

Although the board believes Anne Hutchinson is worthy of honoring, and recognizes the need to raise the visibility of Rhode Island women, the overall consensus was that it should not be at the expense of deleting the name of our indigenous people. Therefore, after lengthy conversation, the board voted to not endorse the proposal.

We hope that our decision is accepted in the light for which it was reached. In the future, we would be happy to consider other proposals to raise the status and visibility of Rhode Island women. Thank you for your proposal.

Sincerely,

Pamela Messor
Chair
Outreach & Partnership Committee

Spring 2006

Representative Amy G. Rice
2431 East Main Road
Portsmouth, RI 02871

Re: H 6733

Dear Representative Rice-

This letter is in support of Bill H 6733, the bill to rename the Sakonnet River Bridge to the Anne Hutchinson Bridge. Anne Hutchinson was a Founding Mother of our country, specifically, the settlement at Portsmouth that endorsed religious liberty for all.

Anne Hutchinson's life and beliefs represent the best that America has to offer. Renaming the Sakonnet River Bridge in her name and honor would be a fitting tribute to her work on behalf of religious freedom for all.

Thank you.

Very truly yours,

Robert B. Miller
Louisa Miller

Spring 2006

Representative Amy G. Rice
2431 East Main Road
Portsmouth, RI 02871

Re: H 6738

Dear Representative Rice-

This letter is in support of Bill H 6738, the bill to rename the Sakonnet River Bridge to the Anne Hutchinson Bridge. Anne Hutchinson was a Founding Mother of our country, specifically, the settlement at Portsmouth that endorsed religious liberty for all.

Anne Hutchinson's life and beliefs represent the best that America has to offer. Renaming the Sakonnet River Bridge in her name and honor would be a fitting tribute to her work on behalf of religious freedom for all.

Thank you.

Very truly yours,

Gail Gardner (Daughter of AH)

Robert Allen Greene, Pres. R.I.G.S.

Laura Salo

Spring 2006

Representative Amy G. Rice
2431 East Main Road
Portsmouth, RI 02871

Re: H 6737

Dear Representative Rice-

This letter is in support of Bill H 6737, the bill to rename the Sakonnet River Bridge to the Anne Hutchinson Bridge. Anne Hutchinson was a Founding Mother of our country, specifically, the settlement at Portsmouth that endorsed religious liberty for all.

Anne Hutchinson's life and beliefs represent the best that America has to offer. Renaming the Sakonnet River Bridge in her name and honor would be a fitting tribute to her work on behalf of religious freedom for all.

Thank you.

Very truly yours,

Marie Goulette - Waldman

Host/Producer

"Tea with Marie" Cox cable television show

www.teawithmarie.com

51 Overlook Rd

Narragansett, RI 02882

Spring 2006

Representative Amy G. Rice
2431 East Main Road
Portsmouth, RI 02871

Re: H 6798

Dear Representative Rice-

This letter is in support of Bill H 6798, the bill to rename the Sakonnet River Bridge to the Anne Hutchinson Bridge. Anne Hutchinson was a Founding Mother of our country, specifically, the settlement at Portsmouth that endorsed religious liberty for all.

Anne Hutchinson's life and beliefs represent the best that America has to offer. Renaming the Sakonnet River Bridge in her name and honor would be a fitting tribute to her work on behalf of religious freedom for all.

Thank you.

Very truly yours,

Alice Gardiner
37 Branch Rd.
Warwick, R.I. 02888

Spring 2006

Representative Amy G. Rice
2431 East Main Road
Portsmouth, RI 02871

Re: H 6737

Dear Representative Rice-

This letter is in support of Bill H 6737, the bill to rename the Sakonnet River Bridge to the Anne Hutchinson Bridge. Anne Hutchinson was a Founding Mother of our country, specifically, the settlement at Portsmouth that endorsed religious liberty for all.

Anne Hutchinson's life and beliefs represent the best that America has to offer. Renaming the Sakonnet River Bridge in her name and honor would be a fitting tribute to her work on behalf of religious freedom for all.

Thank you.

Very truly yours,

Jane W. Waterhouse

Spring 2006

Representative Amy G. Rice
2431 East Main Road
Portsmouth, RI 02871

Re: H 6733

Dear Representative Rice-

This letter is in support of Bill H 6733, the bill to rename the Sakonnet River Bridge to the Anne Hutchinson Bridge. Anne Hutchinson was a Founding Mother of our country, specifically, the settlement at Portsmouth that endorsed religious liberty for all.

Anne Hutchinson's life and beliefs represent the best that America has to offer. Renaming the Sakonnet River Bridge in her name and honor would be a fitting tribute to her work on behalf of religious freedom for all.

Thank you.

Very truly yours,

Geri Clarke
217 School St.
No. KINGSTOWN, RI
02852

Spring 2006

Representative Amy G. Rice
2431 East Main Road
Portsmouth, RI 02871

Re: H 6743

Dear Representative Rice-

This letter is in support of Bill H 6743, the bill to rename the Sakonnet River Bridge to the Anne Hutchinson Bridge. Anne Hutchinson was a Founding Mother of our country, specifically, the settlement at Portsmouth that endorsed religious liberty for all.

Anne Hutchinson's life and beliefs represent the best that America has to offer. Renaming the Sakonnet River Bridge in her name and honor would be a fitting tribute to her work on behalf of religious freedom for all.

Thank you.

Very truly yours,

Charlotte H. Dumas
50 Montrose Street
East Greenwich RI 02818

Spring 2006

Representative Amy G. Rice
2431 East Main Road
Portsmouth, RI 02871

Re: H 6737

Dear Representative Rice-

This letter is in support of Bill H 6737, the bill to rename the Sakonnet River Bridge to the Anne Hutchinson Bridge. Anne Hutchinson was a Founding Mother of our country, specifically, the settlement at Portsmouth that endorsed religious liberty for all.

Anne Hutchinson's life and beliefs represent the best that America has to offer. Renaming the Sakonnet River Bridge in her name and honor would be a fitting tribute to her work on behalf of religious freedom for all.

Thank you.

Very truly yours,

James H. McNamee
416 North Lane
Bristol, RI 02809

Spring 2006

Representative Amy G. Rice
2431 East Main Road
Portsmouth, RI 02871

Re: H 6738

Dear Representative Rice-

This letter is in support of Bill H 6738, the bill to rename the Sakonnet River Bridge to the Anne Hutchinson Bridge. Anne Hutchinson was a Founding Mother of our country, specifically, the settlement at Portsmouth that endorsed religious liberty for all.

Anne Hutchinson's life and beliefs represent the best that America has to offer. Renaming the Sakonnet River Bridge in her name and honor would be a fitting tribute to her work on behalf of religious freedom for all.

Thank you.

Very truly yours,

Litty Champion
395 Oak Hill Rd
N. Kingstown, RI 02852

Spring 2006

Representative Amy G. Rice
2431 East Main Road
Portsmouth, RI 02871

Re: H 6738

Dear Representative Rice-

This letter is in support of Bill H 6738, the bill to rename the Sakonnet River Bridge to the Anne Hutchinson Bridge. Anne Hutchinson was a Founding Mother of our country, specifically, the settlement at Portsmouth that endorsed religious liberty for all.

Anne Hutchinson's life and beliefs represent the best that America has to offer. Renaming the Sakonnet River Bridge in her name and honor would be a fitting tribute to her work on behalf of religious freedom for all.

Thank you.

Very truly yours,

Carol E. Wernquist
8 Christine Road
Middletown, R.I. 02842

Spring 2006

Representative Amy G. Rice
2431 East Main Road
Portsmouth, RI 02871

Re: H 6738

Dear Representative Rice-

This letter is in support of Bill H 6738, the bill to rename the Sakonnet River Bridge to the Anne Hutchinson Bridge. Anne Hutchinson was a Founding Mother of our country, specifically, the settlement at Portsmouth that endorsed religious liberty for all.

Anne Hutchinson's life and beliefs represent the best that America has to offer. Renaming the Sakonnet River Bridge in her name and honor would be a fitting tribute to her work on behalf of religious freedom for all.

Thank you.

Lars Sorensen
Very truly yours,

*28 Alderbrook Dr.
Cranston, RI 02920*

Spring 2006

Representative Amy G. Rice
2431 East Main Road
Portsmouth, RI 02871

Re: H 6733

Dear Representative Rice-

This letter is in support of Bill H 6733, the bill to rename the Sakonnet River Bridge to the Anne Hutchinson Bridge. Anne Hutchinson was a Founding Mother of our country, specifically, the settlement at Portsmouth that endorsed religious liberty for all.

Anne Hutchinson's life and beliefs represent the best that America has to offer. Renaming the Sakonnet River Bridge in her name and honor would be a fitting tribute to her work on behalf of religious freedom for all.

Thank you.

Very truly yours,

Mary Jean Johnson
345 N. Gidnessett Rd.
N. Kingstown, RI 02852

Spring 2006

Representative Amy G. Rice
2431 East Main Road
Portsmouth, RI 02871

Re: H 6733

Dear Representative Rice-

This letter is in support of Bill H 6733, the bill to rename the Sakonnet River Bridge to the Anne Hutchinson Bridge. Anne Hutchinson was a Founding Mother of our country, specifically, the settlement at Portsmouth that endorsed religious liberty for all.

Anne Hutchinson's life and beliefs represent the best that America has to offer. Renaming the Sakonnet River Bridge in her name and honor would be a fitting tribute to her work on behalf of religious freedom for all.

Thank you.

Alice W. Parnas

Very truly yours,

7 Slocum Rd
Portsmouth, RI

02871-3526

Spring 2006

Representative Amy G. Rice
2431 East Main Road
Portsmouth, RI 02871

Re: H 6738

Dear Representative Rice-

This letter is in support of Bill H 6738, the bill to rename the Sakonnet River Bridge to the Anne Hutchinson Bridge. Anne Hutchinson was a Founding Mother of our country, specifically, the settlement at Portsmouth that endorsed religious liberty for all.

Anne Hutchinson's life and beliefs represent the best that America has to offer. Renaming the Sakonnet River Bridge in her name and honor would be a fitting tribute to her work on behalf of religious freedom for all.

Thank you.

Wayne Lewis

Very truly yours,

*7 Slocum Rd
Portsmouth, RI*

Spring 2006

Representative Amy G. Rice
2431 East Main Road
Portsmouth, RI 02871

Re: H 6798

Dear Representative Rice-

This letter is in support of Bill H 6798, the bill to rename the Sakonnet River Bridge to the Anne Hutchinson Bridge. Anne Hutchinson was a Founding Mother of our country, specifically, the settlement at Portsmouth that endorsed religious liberty for all.

Anne Hutchinson's life and beliefs represent the best that America has to offer. Renaming the Sakonnet River Bridge in her name and honor would be a fitting tribute to her work on behalf of religious freedom for all.

Thank you.

Very truly yours,

Melchior L. Moon

13 S. Willbrow Dr.

Narragansett

R.I. 02882

Spring 2006

Representative Amy G. Rice
2431 East Main Road
Portsmouth, RI 02871

Re: H 6793

Dear Representative Rice-

This letter is in support of Bill H 6793, the bill to rename the Sakonnet River Bridge to the Anne Hutchinson Bridge. Anne Hutchinson was a Founding Mother of our country, specifically, the settlement at Portsmouth that endorsed religious liberty for all.

Anne Hutchinson's life and beliefs represent the best that America has to offer. Renaming the Sakonnet River Bridge in her name and honor would be a fitting tribute to her work on behalf of religious freedom for all.

Thank you.

Very truly yours,

Carolyn Owens
39 Exeter Blvd
Narragansett R.I.
02882

Spring 2006

Representative Amy G. Rice
2431 East Main Road
Portsmouth, RI 02871

Re: H 6733

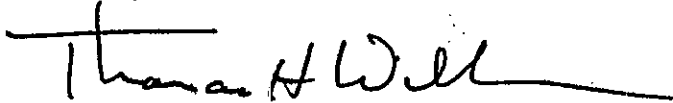
Dear Representative Rice-

This letter is in support of Bill H 6733, the bill to rename the Sakonnet River Bridge to the Anne Hutchinson Bridge. Anne Hutchinson was a Founding Mother of our country, specifically, the settlement at Portsmouth that endorsed religious liberty for all.

Anne Hutchinson's life and beliefs represent the best that America has to offer. Renaming the Sakonnet River Bridge in her name and honor would be a fitting tribute to her work on behalf of religious freedom for all.

Thank you.

Very truly yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Thomas H. Will", with a long horizontal line extending to the right.

Spring 2006

Representative Amy G. Rice
2431 East Main Road
Portsmouth, RI 02871

Re: H 6738
6778

Dear Representative Rice-

This letter is in support of Bill H 6738, the bill to rename the Sakonnet River Bridge to the Anne Hutchinson Bridge. Anne Hutchinson was a Founding Mother of our country, specifically, the settlement at Portsmouth that endorsed religious liberty for all.

Anne Hutchinson's life and beliefs represent the best that America has to offer. Renaming the Sakonnet River Bridge in her name and honor would be a fitting tribute to her work on behalf of religious freedom for all.

Thank you.

Thomas E. Clark

Very truly yours,

*217 School St.
Nor. Kingstown, RI 02852*

Spring 2006

Representative Amy G. Rice
2431 East Main Road
Portsmouth, RI 02871

Re: H 6748

Dear Representative Rice-

This letter is in support of Bill H 6748, the bill to rename the Sakonnet River Bridge to the Anne Hutchinson Bridge. Anne Hutchinson was a Founding Mother of our country, specifically, the settlement at Portsmouth that endorsed religious liberty for all.

Anne Hutchinson's life and beliefs represent the best that America has to offer. Renaming the Sakonnet River Bridge in her name and honor would be a fitting tribute to her work on behalf of religious freedom for all.

Thank you.

Very truly yours,

Mary E. Ostiguy

165 Buena Vista Dr.

No. Kingstown, RI
02852

Spring 2006

Representative Amy G. Rice
2431 East Main Road
Portsmouth, RI 02871

Re: H 6738

Dear Representative Rice-

This letter is in support of Bill H 6738, the bill to rename the Sakonnet River Bridge to the Anne Hutchinson Bridge. Anne Hutchinson was a Founding Mother of our country, specifically, the settlement at Portsmouth that endorsed religious liberty for all.

Anne Hutchinson's life and beliefs represent the best that America has to offer. Renaming the Sakonnet River Bridge in her name and honor would be a fitting tribute to her work on behalf of religious freedom for all.

Thank you.

Carolyn D. Pommeroy

Very truly yours,

Prudence Island, RI

Spring 2006

Representative Amy G. Rice
2431 East Main Road
Portsmouth, RI 02871

Re: H 6737

Dear Representative Rice-

This letter is in support of Bill H 6737, the bill to rename the Sakonnet River Bridge to the Anne Hutchinson Bridge. Anne Hutchinson was a Founding Mother of our country, specifically, the settlement at Portsmouth that endorsed religious liberty for all.

Anne Hutchinson's life and beliefs represent the best that America has to offer. Renaming the Sakonnet River Bridge in her name and honor would be a fitting tribute to her work on behalf of religious freedom for all.

Thank you.

Very truly yours,

Rosemarie E. Mello
4 Sylvan St.
Newport, RI 02840-3512