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Providence, RI 02903**

**Michele Cinquegrano
Regional Director**

June 12, 2023

The Honorable Joseph J. Solomon, Jr.
House Corporations Committee
State House
Providence, RI 02903

RE: ENTITLED, AN ACT RELATING TO PUBLIC UTILITIES AND CARRIERS -- RHODE ISLAND UTILITY FAIR SHARE ROADWAY REPAIR ACT

Dear Chairman Solomon:

On behalf of Verizon, I write in strong opposition to H-6494, which proposes amendments to the "Rhode Island Utility Fair Share Roadway Repair Act." Verizon works with DOT and municipalities in coordination of roadway projects and any planned projects we proactively have in the pipeline on a regular basis. Current statute already requires a permit for all work on state roads, and it is a top priority that we work within the parameters for projects that would impact roads, especially those that are included in paving and preservation plans.

There are many items of concern in this bill, including:

- Language about not passing the cost on to the consumer. This is a legitimate cost of doing business and it requires those entities requesting the work to be done should be the responsible party to pay for that work.
- The DOT can determine what constitutes an emergency situation" for utility customers – without any further definition in statute or regard of any regulatory obligations on the utilities part.

We strongly urge the committee to not move this bill forward. Thank you for consideration of our position. If you require any additional information, please contact me at 401-443-1209 or michele.cinquegrano@verizon.com.

Respectfully,

Michele Cinquegrano

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