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Thank you for allowing me the opportunity to address the importance of H5156, the bill allowing for virtual participation in Association meetings. I am a retired physician with experience as a CEO and President of a non-profit and in the Federal Government reporting directly to the Secretary of Health and Human Services. I am here today as a unit owner and past president of the Louisquisset Country Club Condominium Association.

Louisquisset has 409 units in 120 separate and unique freestanding residential buildings, a golf course, a restaurant/club house with offices, and a swimming pool. The Association amended 16 of its Bylaws while I was president in 2021 to require, among other items, term limits, a signed code of ethics for its Board members, regular reserve studies, and the ability to conduct virtual meetings (per RI law.)

COVID-19 forced us to conduct virtual meetings via Zoom in 2020, the first year of my presidency. The response from our fellow unit owners was dramatic. In addition to sharing a presentation with well over 100 units (previously we often did not meet our quorum requirement of 82), we collected questions on line related to both the annual and budget meetings that year and answered them via blast email. Notices were posted at our mailhouses that presentations and documents were available on paper through the office for those who were not on email (we had addresses for all but 5 of our unit owners.) We received multiple kudos from our constituency for delivering easily accessible information and the opportunity to have questions answered in writing and available to everyone -- even from those who couldn't attend.

Voting in 2020 at our annual virtual meeting was also not a problem, since it, too, could be done virtually. Turn out during that election was the highest it had been in recent memory. Unit owners appreciated that it was secure, private, and tabulated independently. I believe that these are the reasons that well over 50% of unit owners voted to amend our Bylaws in favor of virtual meetings when the Act is updated to reflect our dependence on electronic communications while assuring paper access for those who request it. Since the RI Act was not amended after the epidemic subsided, we returned to in person meetings -- and dwindling attendance. **We did not have a quorum at our most recent in person annual and budget meetings, but we did have unit owners asking to attend virtually.** Unfortunately, our venue the past 2 years did not support hybrid meetings. If this amendment passes, we hope to be able to find a venue that will support hybrid meetings in the future in order to maximize attendance.