



RHODE ISLAND
DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT
OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR
235 Promenade Street, Room 425
Providence, Rhode Island 02908

April 2, 2026

The Honorable Joseph J. Solomon, Jr.
Chairman
House Committee on Corporations
82 Smith Street
Providence, Rhode Island 02903

RE: H 7865 An Act Relating to Relating to Insurance – Weather-Related Losses

Dear Chairman Solomon,

Thank you for providing the Department of Environmental Management (DEM) the opportunity to comment on H 7865, which would establish a Strengthen Rhody Homes program. DEM supports this legislation.

The Strengthen Rhody Homes program proposed by this legislation would assist homeowners to harden their home to protect against extreme weather events. The program would utilize science-based standards developed by the Insurance Institute for Business and Home Safety including measures to secure the roof deck, provide impact protection for windows and doors, and protect vents and soffits. The implementation of such improvements will provide enhanced protection for homeowners against extreme weather events and may result in reduced home insurance premiums. We urge the General Assembly to move forward with this important legislation.

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 Ryan Mulcahey, DEM Director of Legislative Affairs, at ryan.mulcahey@dem.ri.gov should you have any additional questions or wish to discuss this matter further.

Sincerely,

Terrence Gray, P.E.
Director

cc: Members of the House Committee on Corporations
The Honorable Brian Patrick Kennedy
Nicole McCarty, Esq., Chief Legal Counsel to the Speaker of the House
Lynne Urbani, House Policy Director