



Via Electronic Mail

April 28, 2026

The Honorable Joseph J. Solomon, Jr.
Chair, House Corporations Committee
Room 101, State House
Providence, RI 02903

Re: CLF **Supports with Conditions** House Bill No. 8400 – Prohibition On Thermal Waste Conversion Facilities at Quonset Point/Davisville Industrial Park

Dear Chair Solomon:

The Conservation Law Foundation (“CLF”) appreciates the opportunity to comment on H-8400 that would prohibit the development of thermal waste conversion facilities at the Quonset Point/Davisville Industrial Park until January 31, 2027. For the following reasons, CLF supports H-8400 with the following conditions.

Founded in 1966, CLF is a member-supported non-profit advocacy organization working to protect public health and the environment and build healthy communities in Rhode Island and throughout New England. Through its Communities and Toxics Program, CLF aims to ensure that environmental justice communities in Rhode Island are meaningfully involved in the policy formation and decision-making process related to statewide solutions for the disposal of sewage sludge in Rhode Island.

On October 25, 2024, Rhode Island Commerce Corporation, acting by and through its agent and attorney in fact Quonset Development Corporation, and Global Soil Solutions, LLC entered into a Non-Binding LOI regarding a potential long-term ground lease of approximately 9.34 acres of land located along All American Way, North Kingstown, Rhode Island for the installation and operation of a biosolids biochar manufacturing facility (“QDC Thermal Waste Conversion Facility”).¹ It appears that H-8400 has been filed to ensure that further development of the QDC Thermal Waste Conversion Facility would not move forward until the commission created by House Resolution 7532 - CREATING A SPECIAL JOINT LEGISLATIVE COMMISSION TO STUDY SLUDGE MANAGEMENT IN RHODE ISLAND – introduced on February 16, 2026,

¹ Non-binding Letter of Intent dated October 25, 2024, between the Rhode Island Commerce Corporation, acting by and through its agent and attorney in fact, Quonset Development Corporation (“QDC”) and Global Soil Solutions, LLC (“GSS”) (the “Non-Binding LOI”); <https://quonset.com/wp-content/uploads/2026/04/QSS-Biosolids-Lease-Notice-4-23-26.pdf>.

completes its work and the findings of this Commission are used to influence the decision of whether or not to proceed with the QDC Thermal Waste Conversion Facility.

Prior to the House's passage of H-7532, CLF provided written comments noting that the wastewater industry is heavily represented on the Commission, including members from the Rhode Island Clean Water Association, the Narragansett Bay Commission ("NBC"), a representative of a treatment facility, Northeast Biosolids & Residuals Association, and a representative of a private company involved in biosolids management. However, CLF highlighted that there were no representatives appointed to the Commission from environmental justice organizations representing environmental justice communities located adjacent to the Port of Providence (where NBC's principal operation is located). The House passed H-7532 Sub A with a floor amendment on April 16, 2026, and H-7532A does not add an environmental justice community representative to the Commission.

Without equal representation on the Commission, Rhode Island environmental justice communities in Rhode Island – particularly the environmental justice communities located adjacent to the Port of Providence – will, as repeatedly been the case, bear the cumulative burden from this lack of representation for the benefit of the remainder of the state. This is a result that the environmental justice communities will no longer tolerate. Accordingly, CLF supports H-8400 and emphasizes if H-7532A should be amended to include an environmental justice representative representing the environmental justice communities located adjacent to the Port of Providence as a full member of the Commission.

Thank you for your time and consideration of this testimony.

Respectfully submitted,



Richard Stang
Senior Attorney, Rhode Island
Conservation Law Foundation

cc: Members of the House Corporations Committee
Representative Julie A. Casimiro
Representative Robert E. Craven, Sr.
Representative Carol Hagan McEntee
Representative Katherine S. Kazarian
Darrèll Brown, Vice President, Rhode Island, Conservation Law Foundation