The Narragansett Bay Commission
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March 18, 2024

The Honorable David A. Bennett
Chair
House Environment & Natural Resources
State House
Providence, RI 02903

Re: Narragansett Bay Commission; House Bill 7356; Support

Dear Chairperson Bennett and Members of the Committee:

The Narragansett Bay Commission (NBC) respectfully submits this letter to express its support of 2024 House Bill 7356, the Comprehensive PFAS Ban Act of 2024.

The NBC fully supports the legislative intent of H7356 to ban all uses of PFAS excepting certain unavoidable products, and further supports a staged approach to achieving the ban as outlined in the bill. By addressing PFAS at the source, H7356 will significantly reduce the amount of PFAS entering the environment, which in turn will positively impact human and environmental health.

The NBC owns and operates the State of Rhode Island's two largest wastewater collection and treatment facilities serving approximately one-third of the state's population. The NBC receives PFAS compounds and PFAS precursors in its wastewater influent from a variety of domestic, commercial, and industrial sources. The NBC's wastewater treatment facilities are designed for the removal of conventional pollutants (such as biological oxygen demand, total suspended solids, and nitrogen). The facilities are not designed or capable of removing PFAS. Moreover, there is no proven technology available that removes PFAS in the wastewater treatment process. Until such time that technology is developed, reducing PFAS at the source is the most realistic and sound approach. H7356 will eliminate PFAS from goods and products therefore stopping the problem at the source and creating a simple and sound way to protect the public's health and welfare.

Thank you for the opportunity to express the NBC's support of 2024 House Bill 7356 and for taking the time to consider the NBC's position.

Sincerely,

Jennifer J. Harrington, Esq.

Jennifer J. Harrington, Esquire
General Counsel and Legislative Liaison