



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

February 26, 2026

The Honorable David A. Bennett
Chairman
House Committee on Environment and Natural Resources
82 Smith Street
Providence, Rhode Island 02903

RE: H 7422 An Act Relating to Health and Safety – The Rhode Island Clean Air Preservation Act

Dear Chairman Bennett,

Thank you for providing the Department of Environmental Management (DEM) the opportunity to comment on H 7422, which would prohibit a variety of activities sometimes referred to as “geoengineering.” DEM is opposed to this legislation.

H 7422 would prohibit any person or entity from engaging in activities involving the intentional release of pollutants as an experiment intended to reduce the amount of sunlight reaching the Earth’s surface or other polluting atmospheric experimentation and/or interventions. This activity is sometimes referred to as “geoengineering” and DEM is unaware of any such activity occurring in Rhode Island. Although some scientists have proposed activities that could meet the definition of geoengineering as a means of combatting climate change, the scientific consensus is that any such activities require additional research and study to assess potential risks and unintended consequences. Because we are unaware of any such activity taking place, we do not believe that the substantial resources that would be needed to implement this legislation are best used for this purpose.

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 Environment and Natural Resources
The Honorable Evan Shanley
Nicole McCarty, Chief Legal Counsel to the Speaker of the House
Lynne Urbani, House Policy Director