



March 25, 2026

The Honorable David A. Bennett, Chair
House Environment and Natural Resources Committee
Rhode Island House of Representatives
82 Smith Street
Providence, RI 02903

RE: HOUSE BILL 7344 – HOUSE RESOLUTION CREATING A PERMANENT COMMISSION ON CLIMATE CHANGE IMPACTS AND SOLUTIONS

Chair Bennett and Honorable Members of the Committee,

On behalf of the Rhode Island League of Cities and Towns, we write in support of House Bill 7344, which would establish a permanent commission on climate change impacts and solutions. We appreciate Representative Cortvriend's thoughtful leadership in advancing this important issue and commend the effort to take a comprehensive and forward-looking approach to addressing climate challenges facing our state.

Municipalities are on the front lines of climate change, managing the real-time impacts of flooding, infrastructure strain, coastal erosion, and extreme weather events. Establishing a permanent commission dedicated to analyzing the economic, environmental, and social implications of adaptation, mitigation, and resilience strategies will provide valuable guidance to local governments as they plan for both short-term needs and long-term sustainability.

The League is encouraged by the commission's focus on examining how Rhode Island can best structure its administrative response to meet the full scope of this challenge. A coordinated and strategic approach will be critical to ensuring alignment between state and local efforts while promoting efficiency and effectiveness. We value the opportunity for continued municipal representation on the commission, as local perspectives will be essential in shaping practical, workable solutions.

Thank you for your consideration and respectfully urge your support for House Bill 7344.

Sincerely,

Randy R. Rossi
Executive Director

Cc: Honorable Members of House Environment and Natural Resources Committee