



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

March 25, 2026

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

RE: H 7344 House Resolution Creating a Permanent Commission on Climate Change Impacts and Solutions

Dear Chairman Bennett,

Thank you for providing the Department of Environmental Management (DEM) the opportunity to comment on H 7344, which would create a permanent commission on climate change impacts and solutions.

H 7344 would designate a “Rhode Island Department of Environmental Management Officer,” to be appointed by the Speaker of the House, as a member of the commission. We respectfully request that the resolution be amended to designate the Director of the Rhode Island Department of Environmental Management, or designee, as DEM’s representative to the commission. This change will promote consistency with the other executive branch representatives identified in the resolution and ensure that DEM has the flexibility to designate the most appropriate individual to serve on the commission.

We appreciate the opportunity to offer comments on this legislation and would be pleased to work with you to address the issues raised in this letter. 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
Department of Environmental Management

cc: Members of the House Committee on Environment and Natural Resources
The Honorable Terri Cortvriend
Nicole McCarty, Esq., Chief Legal Counsel to the Speaker of the House
Lynne Urbani, House Policy Director