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March 24, 2026

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

RE: Narragansett Bay Commission; 2026 House Bill 7917; Proposing Amendments

Dear Chairperson Bennett and Members of the Committee:

Thank you for considering the Narragansett Bay Commission's (NBC) position on 2026 House Bill 7917. I am writing to express NBC's concerns with H7917 and respectfully request that the Committee incorporate proposed language that would address these concerns.

NBC continues to take actions to mitigate the impact of climate change on its facilities and operations, including significant investments in renewable energy (which now covers more than 75% of NBC's electrical usage) and has made significant capital investments to harden NBC's facilities for extreme weather events. Although NBC submits capital plans or capital budget requests to the RI Office of Management and Budget and would therefore be subject to the legislation, it is important to keep in mind that NBC's capital program and operating costs are covered by user fees. As a regulated entity of RIDEM and EPA, NBC has entered into a long-term consent agreement regarding its future capital program and general operations.

NBC is concerned that the provisions in the proposed act may conflict with NBC's statutory environmental compliance and consent decree requirements. Given the lack of State funding for the NBC and the potential conflicts that may arise, NBC proposes the following language, which is underlined in red ink, be added to page 2, line 6 in H7917:

> (ii) Submit capital plans or capital budget requests (excluding such plans or requests funded by user fees); or

The NBC respectfully requests consideration of the proposed changes to H7917. Thank you for the opportunity to comment.

Sincerely,

Jennifer J. Harrington, Esquire
General Counsel and Legislative Liaison