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Sent via email to: HouseFinance@rilegislature.gov

March 17, 2025

Representative Marvin L. Abney
Chairman, Rhode Island House Finance Committee
12 Summer St.
Newport, RI 02840

Subject: Letter of Support for House Resolution 6016 to provide funding for critical coastal hazard decision support tools hosted at URI

Dear Chairman Abney,

I am writing to express Save The Bay's support for House Resolution 6016 to provide funding for critical coastal hazard decision support tools hosted at URI.

Three URI-led research-based decision support tools require ongoing funding to adequately serve the needs of Rhode Island:

- 1) RI Coastal Hazards Analysis, Modeling and Prediction system (RI-CHAMP),
- 2) STORMTOOLS, and
- 3) MyCoast Rhode Island

These important tools were developed and implemented in response to the expressed needs of Rhode Island's emergency managers, partner communities, state regulatory agencies, and military installations. These URI-led products play a key role in building capacity to address risks from present-day coastal storms - as well as increasing sea levels and storm intensity - to enhance RI's emergency management system, state and local resilience planning, coastal policy/permitting processes and community awareness and buy-in. These tools may soon go offline due to a lack of funding.

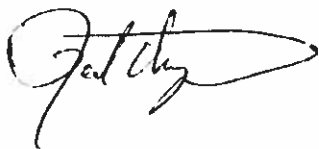
Save The Bay's mission to protect and improve Narragansett Bay depends, in part, on the work of our allies in state and federal governments who need tools that enable them to make informed short- and long-term decisions that are based in sound science and analysis. The Bay and broader watershed are facing a myriad of challenges, including sea level rise, coastal erosion, and increased inland flooding. "CHAMPs," "STORMTOOLS," and "MyCoast" help regulators, municipalities, planners, advocates and the public understand the projected changes and make informed decisions about how to prepare for and respond to those challenges. Save The Bay's staff use and refer to these tools frequently in our own work to

analyze development proposals and changes along the coast, as well as in designing and implementing coastal restoration projects.

My colleagues and I urge you to provide these urgently needed funds so that we can continue to apply the tools and work with our URI colleagues to expand their capacity over time and build the resilience of Rhode Island communities to storms and other coastal changes and hazards.

Thank you for considering our comments.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jed Thorp", with a stylized, elongated flourish extending to the right.

Jed Thorp
Director of Advocacy
Save The Bay
jthorp@savebay.org