



March 11, 2025

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

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

Dear Chairman Abney,

I am reaching out about a bill [2025-H 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 serve the needs of Rhode Island – 1) RI Coastal Hazards Analysis, Modeling and Prediction system (RI-CHAMP), 2) STORMTOOLS, and 3) MyCoast Rhode Island were developed and implemented since 2014 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 key roles 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 process, and community awareness and buy-in. These tools may soon go offline due a funding shortfall.

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 overtime and build resiliency of Rhode Island communities to storms and other coastal hazards.

These decision support tools are critically important to efforts on Aquidneck Island to plan for and address the impacts of our changing climate, such as flooding, coastal erosion and storm water pollution in our freshwater systems.

Thank you for your consideration of this vital funding.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Terry Sullivan".

Terry Sullivan, Executive Director