



RHODE ISLAND

DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT

OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR

235 Promenade Street, Room 425
Providence, Rhode Island 02908

May 13, 2025

The Honorable Marvin Abney
Chairman
House Committee on Finance
82 Smith Street
Providence, Rhode Island 02903

RE: H 5994 An Act Relating to State Affairs and Government – Department of Environmental Management

Dear Chairman Abney,

Thank you for providing the Department of Environmental Management (DEM) the opportunity to comment on H 5994. DEM is not able to implement this legislation with existing resources.

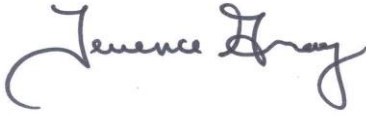
H 5994 would require that DEM develop, identify, maintain and continuously update a list of projects that qualify for forest and open space land conservation funding under three federal laws. It would also establish a restricted receipt account for use in environmental law enforcement on federal property funded through revenue generated by agricultural programs administered by DEM.

DEM actively pursues all available federal funding to support land conservation efforts in Rhode Island. This includes projects directly undertaken by DEM on behalf of the state and partnerships with municipalities and non-governmental organizations. However, we believe that the compilation and regular updating of a comprehensive list of properties that may be eligible for funding through multiple federal laws would be an unnecessary endeavor that would require substantial staff time which would be better allocated to other projects. With respect to funding to support environmental law enforcement on federal property, we note that the DEM Division of Law Enforcement has an existing Memorandum of Understanding with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service to enforce state and federal laws at the federal wildlife refuges in Rhode Island.

We appreciate the opportunity to offer comments on this legislation and would be pleased to make ourselves available as needed. 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,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Terrence Gray". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Terrence" being more prominent than the last name "Gray".

Terrence Gray, P.E.
Director

cc: Members of the House Committee on Finance
The Honorable Paul M. Santucci
Sharon Reynolds Ferland, House Fiscal Advisor
Nicole McCarty, Chief Legal Counsel to the Speaker of the House
Lynne Urbani, House Policy Director