



# RIEMA

RHODE ISLAND  
EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT AGENCY

Daniel J. McKee, **Governor**  
Marc R. Pappas, **Director**

May 13, 2025

The Honorable Marvin L. Abney, Chair  
House Committee on Finance  
Rhode Island State House  
82 Smith Street  
Providence, RI 02903

Re: 2025 - H – 6276, An Act Relating to Waters and Navigation – Rhode Island Property Resilience Act

Dear Chair Abney:

2025 - H – 6276, An Act Relating to Waters and Navigation – Rhode Island Property Resilience Act, establishes a flood audit program. The program includes a flood mitigation council, on which the Director of the Rhode Island Emergency Management Agency (RIEMA) would serve as a member, establishes a flood task force to be staffed by RIEMA, and requires RIEMA to provide office space, supplies, and staff support to the council. Funding for the program is to be generated by a \$25.00 annual surcharge paid by all property owners to their insurance carriers.

At present, RIEMA's office space is at maximum capacity. With only thirty-eight full-time employees, RIEMA does not have sufficient support staff to assist a flood audit council or to staff a flood task force. Comprehensive statewide assessments of flooding and sea level rise already exist and the Federal Emergency Management Agency already offers a free flood-mapping tool. The purpose of the program is to provide funds to eligible property owners to pay for flood audits, but the property owners are under no obligation to implement any of the flood audit recommendations, and thus there is no guarantee that any flood mitigation will occur as a result of this program. For these reasons, RIEMA is opposed to this legislation.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, reading "Marc R. Pappas".

Marc R. Pappas

cc: Honorable Members of the House Committee on Finance  
The Honorable Lauren H. Carson  
Nicole McCarty, Esq., Chief Legal Counsel to the Speaker of the House