



May 13, 2025

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

RE: BILL NUMBER H-6252 – AN ACT RELATING TO WATERS AND NAVIGATION -- RHODE ISLAND
INFRASTRUCTURE BANK

Chair Abney and Honorable Committee Members,

On behalf of the Rhode Island League of Cities and Towns, We write to express our strong support for House Bill 6252, which would authorize the Rhode Island Infrastructure Bank (RIIB) to establish the Resilient Rhody Infrastructure Fund. This forward-thinking initiative would provide technical, administrative, and financial assistance to local governments undertaking critical resiliency and stormwater abatement projects.

Across Rhode Island, our cities and towns are experiencing the real-time impacts of climate change, rising sea levels, more intense rainfall, coastal erosion, and increased flooding. Municipalities are on the front lines of these challenges, responsible for safeguarding infrastructure, protecting residents and businesses, and ensuring continuity of services. However, the cost of preparing for and responding to these environmental stressors is often beyond the capacity of local budgets alone.

H-6252 is an essential tool that would:

- Create dedicated funding for infrastructure improvements that reduce vulnerability to flooding and storm damage.
- Support long-term planning and implementation of climate resilience initiatives at the local level.
- Help municipalities comply with state and federal stormwater regulations, reducing liability and improving environmental outcomes.
- Promote equity and sustainability by prioritizing projects that protect vulnerable populations and public assets.
- Leverage the expertise of the RI Infrastructure Bank, which has a strong track record of managing innovative municipal finance programs.

By establishing the Resilient Rhody Infrastructure Fund, the General Assembly will empower cities and towns to proactively address climate-related risks and build stronger, safer communities for future generations.

We respectfully urge the Committee to support this legislation.

Thank you for your time and consideration of our views.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Randy R. Rossi", is written over a light blue horizontal line.

Randy R. Rossi
Executive Director

Cc: Honorable Members of House Finance Committee