



May 20, 2025

Christopher O'Brien, Committee Clerk
House Finance Committee
State House
One Capitol Hill
Providence, RI 02903

SENT VIA EMAIL: HouseFinance@rilegislature.gov

RE: House Bill H5317: Revisions to RIGL 24-8.1-2 "Relocation of Utility Services"

Honorable Chairman and Committee Members:

My name is David Simmons, and I am the Executive Director and Chief Engineer of the Kent County Water Authority (KCWA) which provides drinking water to the residents and businesses for the Towns of West Warwick, Coventry, East Greenwich, West Greenwich, Scituate, North Kingstown, and the City of Warwick and City of Cranston. The KCWA supports the proposed amendments to RIGL 24-8.1-2, "Relocation of Utility Services". As currently constituted, RIGL 24-8.1-2, places an unfair and unwarranted burden on municipal and quasi-municipal public utilities that provide water and sewer service to its residents without regard for availability of funding, as well as probable conflicts with a utilities' capital improvement plan and/or current construction plans. **The costs associated with the relocation of a municipal water or sewer infrastructure as part of a state-initiated highway or roadway project should not be placed on the ratepayers of the affected utility.** Public water suppliers are already struggling with the high costs to deliver a safe and reliable water supply. The current legislation exposes public water suppliers, like KCWA, to unexpected and unwarranted expenses which would be passed on to its ratepayers.

For the reasons noted above, the KCWA supports the amendments to RIGL 24-8.1-2 as proposed by House Bill H5317.

Respectfully Submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "David L. Simmons", is written over a faint, circular official stamp.

David L. Simmons P.E.
Executive Director/Chief Engineer