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*Pawtucket Water Supply Board
Treasurer*

May 16, 2025

House Committee on Finance
Rhode Island State House
Providence, RI 02903

RE: H5317

The Rhode Island Water Works Association (RIWWA) is a professional trade organization that represents water supplies of the State of Rhode Island.

We are in support of House Bill 5317 introduced by Representatives Michelle McGaw, Terri Cortvriend, Megan Cotter, John Edwards, David Morales, Brandon Potter, and Anthony DeSimone.


Relocation of utilities under current law (24-8.1-2) places a burden on municipal and quasi-municipal public utilities that provide public water service to its customers without regard for 1) availability of funding; 2) current plans and construction already undertaken by the utilities; 3) probable conflict with short, medium and long term planning by the utilities; 4) as well as ignoring necessary and advisable permitting and approval processes for many of the utilities subject to RI State Water Resources Board, RIDOH, and EPA rules, and regulations.

Many of the state roadway projects that 24-8.1-2 applies to are federally funded. Requiring a local utility to contribute to a project that is already fully funded may interfere with the outside funding for the overall project and additionally is demanding a financial contribution for something that RIDOT already has adequate funding for.

RIWWA fully supports House Bil H5317 which would amend 24-8.1-2 as it applies to public water and wastewater utilities and removes the burdensome unexpected and unnecessary costs to our local public utilities.

If you have any questions or require any additional information, please contact me at (401) 529-2090.

Sincerely,


Jessica Lynch, P.E.
President

CC RIWWA Executive Board

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