



BOWEN'S WHARF COMPANY

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February 25, 2026

Rhode Island House Finance Committee
Rhode Island State House
82 Smith Street
Providence, RI 02903

Dear Chair and Honorable Members of the House Finance Committee,

On behalf of Bowen's Wharf Company, I am writing to express our full support for the continued funding and operation of the Site Readiness Program. This program has proven to be an invaluable resource for Rhode Island businesses and property owners seeking to strengthen their long-term viability, resilience, and economic impact.

Since 2023, Bowen's Wharf Company has been fortunate to receive two grants through the Site Readiness Program. These funds allowed us to undertake a comprehensive flood vulnerability analysis project following the damaging storm that impacted our waterfront properties in December 2022. As a historic and economically vital destination in Newport, Bowen's Wharf faces increasing risks associated with coastal storms and sea level rise. The Site Readiness Program grant enabled us to take proactive, data-driven steps toward safeguarding our infrastructure, tenants, and the broader local economy.

We hired a local engineering firm to conduct an extensive property survey, which provided critical baseline documentation of existing conditions across our wharf structures and buildings. The findings from their flood vulnerability analysis have equipped us with the technical insight necessary to plan meaningful resilience improvements, prioritize capital investments, and better protect the small businesses that operate on our property. These efforts would not have been possible at the same scale or speed without the support of this program.

Bowen's Wharf is home to a diverse mix of locally owned retail shops, restaurants, marine services, and tourism-related businesses. The stability and preparedness of our infrastructure directly affect the livelihoods of these small businesses and their employees. By investing in site readiness and resilience, the State is not only protecting individual properties but also strengthening Rhode Island's coastal economy and tourism sector as a whole.

The Site Readiness Program represents a forward-thinking investment in economic development and climate resilience. We respectfully urge the House Finance Committee to continue funding this critical initiative so that businesses across Rhode Island can prepare for future challenges and remain competitive, safe, and sustainable.

Thank you for your leadership and your continued commitment to supporting Rhode Island's business community.

Sincerely,
Joseph J. Nicholson Jr., Esq.
Chief Executive Officer
Bowen's Wharf Company