



RHODE ISLAND
DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT
OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR
235 Promenade Street, Room 425
Providence, Rhode Island 02908

April 13, 2026

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

Dear Chairman Abney,

Thank you for inviting the Department of Environmental Management (DEM) to present before the House Committee on Finance on April 2, 2026. We greatly appreciated the opportunity to discuss DEM's budget proposal and answer questions from members of the Committee. During the hearing, DEM was asked to provide additional information, and this letter is in response to that request.

During the hearing, Representative Cortvriend asked for a status update regarding the Melville Boat Ramp in Portsmouth. DEM entered into an agreement with the Town of Portsmouth in the early 1990s which provided funds to construct the Melville Boat Ramp and for repairs thereafter. The boat ramp has now exceeded its useful life of 25 years and needs to be reconstructed. DEM provided the Town with federal funds that covered 75% of the cost to design the new boat ramp (approximately \$64,000 was provided). However, DEM has not yet identified funds to support the approximately \$1.5 million cost of construction. We continue to explore options to fund this project.

Sincerely,

Terrence Gray, P.E.
Director

cc: Members of the House Committee on Finance
The Honorable Terri Cortvriend
Sharon Reynolds Ferland, House Fiscal Advisor
Christopher O'Brien, Committee Clerk