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Sent via email to: HouseFinance@rilegislature.gov

April 14, 2026

Chairman Marvin Abney
House Committee on Finance
Rhode Island State House
Providence, RI 02903

RE: Save The Bay SUPPORT for House Bill 8151 – Blue Wave Bond for Coastal Preparedness

Save The Bay supports the proposed \$100,000,000 Blue Wave Bond for Coastal Preparedness. Climate change - and preparing for and responding to the various impacts of climate change - is one of the biggest and most challenging issues facing Narragansett Bay and the people of Rhode Island, and our investment in resilience and adaptation measures must match the enormity of that challenge. Sea level rise, coastal erosion and potential loss of shoreline access, storm surge, extreme weather events, coastal and inland flooding and other projected hazards threaten our economy, public safety, housing and our natural environment.

The [draft Resilient Rhody 2025 plan](#) is robust framework that provides a comprehensive summary of resilience needs facing the state, and the various projects required to address those needs. Its very scope may seem overwhelming for decision makers who will need to decide which of the many resilience and adaptation needs to prioritize but one thing is clear: the state - and municipalities - will need to invest heavily in measures that protect Rhode Island's communities, critical infrastructure and natural systems.

Funding remains a major challenge for climate resilience and adaptation. The draft *Resilient Rhody 2025* plan includes a long list of possible federal and state sources of funding for various adaptation and resilience projects. Several of the listed funding sources, however, have been spent (or very close to it) with no plans for replenishment with additional funding. Most, if not all, of the allocated funding for the Ocean State Climate Adaptation and Resilience (OSCAR) fund and the RI DEM Climate Resilience Fund, for example, has been allocated and spent. The Governor's proposed FY27 budget includes \$20 million in bond funding for the new Resilient Rhody Infrastructure Fund, but \$20 million is just a fraction of the overall need. **The estimated funding required to realize just the 79 "priority actions" in *Resilient Rhody 2025* ranges from \$119 million to \$298 million, excluding full-scale implementation and construction costs.** The proposed funding in H8151 better reflects the actual need for climate resilience and adaptation projects in Rhode Island, and we

appreciate Representative Spears's ongoing leadership on this issue.

Thank you for considering our comments.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jed Thorp". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large, sweeping flourish at the end.

Jed Thorp
Director of Advocacy