

April 30, 2026

The Honorable Marvin L. Abney  
Chairman, House Finance Committee  
Rhode Island State House  
Providence, Rhode Island 02908

**RE: H-8271 – Joint Resolution Making An Appropriation to 401 Tech Bridge to Study Seaglidors**

Dear Chairman Abney:

On behalf of Rhode Island Energy, I write in **support** of H-8271, a joint resolution to study and explore seaglidors in Rhode Island, including conducting a feasibility study “to understand, assess, and verify the use and operation of seaglidors in Rhode Island.” This new technology within the state’s burgeoning Blue Economy offers the potential to advance important economic, environmental, and transportation-related benefits and we respectfully request your support.

Rhode Island Energy provides essential energy services to more than 770,000 customers across the state through the delivery of electricity or natural gas. Our team of 1,300+ union and non-union employees is dedicated to helping Rhode Island customers and communities thrive, while supporting the transition to a cleaner energy future – in a safe, reliable, and affordable manner.

The Joint Resolution would support the Rhode Island Seaglider Initiative (RISI), a consortium of government, business, and community stakeholders that aim to assist with the awareness, understanding, and adoption of seaglidors in our state. RISI is working with prominent stakeholders, such as the Cities of Providence and East Providence, the Blackstone Valley Tourism Council, and Skills For Rhode Island’s Future to identify ways to upgrade maritime infrastructure, expand economic opportunities and create high-paying jobs, and increase sustainable and affordable transportation options for Rhode Island residents and visitors. Rhode Island Energy is proud to be part of RISI, with a particular focus on helping pave the way for needed electric infrastructure to support seaglider technology and deployment.

RISI has completed an initial economic impact study analyzing the effects of a Seaglider network on Rhode Island’s economy and has identified ways in which it can add 200+ jobs and over \$100 million in economic activity while moving over one million passengers per year.

Rhode Island has also set ambitious climate goals aiming for economy-wide, net-zero emissions by 2050. The transportation sector comprises one-third of the state’s emissions today, making sustainable and accessible options like Seaglidors a necessity to meet climate goals.

The proposed feasibility study would seek to:

- Understand, assess, and verify the use and operation of seaglidors and position Rhode Island to realize the benefits of eliminating thousands of tons of GHG emissions;
- Expand business and job training opportunities for the local Blue Economy, while also increasing fast and flexible access to Rhode Island and other east coast hubs; and

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- Provide a sustainable travel option for residents, visitors, and tourists of Rhode Island.

In closing, Rhode Island Energy appreciates the opportunity to comment on this proposed Joint Resolution and respectfully requests the Committee's support on H-8271.

Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "NSU", written over a light blue circular scribble.

Nicholas S. Ucci  
Director of Government Affairs

CC: The Honorable Members of the House Finance Committee  
The Honorable Alex S. Finkelman, Rhode Island House of Representatives