



STATE OF RHODE ISLAND
OFFICE OF GOVERNOR DANIEL J. MCKEE

February 16, 2022

The Honorable Marvin Abney.
Chairman, House Committee on Finance
State of Rhode Island General Assembly
82 Smith Street Providence, RI 02903

RE: 2022- H 7123– Article 1 § 16: State Fiscal Recovery Fund – Federal Funds

Dear Chairman Abney:

I am writing to express my strong support of Article 1 § 16: State Fiscal Recovery Fund, specifically the High-Efficiency Electric Heat Pumps and Port of Galilee Rehabilitation investments.

The effects of climate change are clear in Rhode Island, and our Administration stands ready to work collectively face these challenges head on and position Rhode Island to be a leader in the blue and green economy, creating jobs and attracting economic development in our state, while striving toward net zero emissions by 2050.

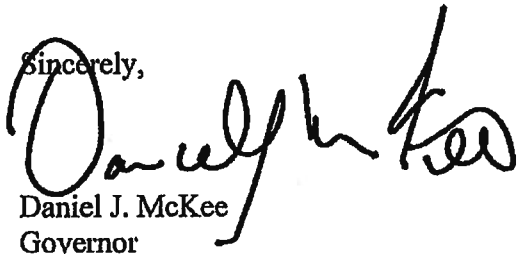
High-Efficiency Electric Heat Pumps: These funds will help homeowners and small business owners purchase and install high-efficiency air source heat pumps (ASHP). Air-source heat pumps are a clean heating and cooling technology that can provide emissions-free comfort when electricity is powered by renewables. This investment will also include an emphasis on families and businesses in environmental justice communities, community-facing health organizations, and public buildings, as well as funding to support workforce development in this sector. As we strive to decarbonize our economy, we must tackle emissions from the heating sector and, in doing so, ensure there is equitable access to the benefits of clean energy.

Port of Galilee Rehabilitation: The Port of Galilee takes in over 48 million pounds of seafood every year, making it one of the largest commercial fishing ports on the East Coast and the largest contributor to Rhode Island's 4,300 seafood industry jobs. Therefore, it is vital that we invest in these assets, which have been neglected for far too long. These improvements, including bulkhead replacement, dock replacement, electrical upgrades, and security infrastructure, will extend the lifetime of these assets, helping to ensure the businesses in the port can be passed on to the next generation and continue to be a vibrant working port.

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As Rhode Islanders, we feel the consequences of climate change in our quality of life and economy. These proposed investments will improve critical infrastructure that supports our commercial fishing, outdoor recreation, and tourism & hospitality industries, as well as the establishment of a new electric heat pump incentive program to tackle emissions from the thermal sector. Alongside other investments in my proposed FY23 budget, such as enhancing Local Agricultural and Seafood Act Grants or bolstering staff capacity to focus on climate change work, these proposals follow my commitment to combat climate change and make Rhode Island a leader in the Blue and Green Economy.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Daniel J. McKee". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial "D" and a long, sweeping underline.

Daniel J. McKee
Governor

CC: The Honorable Members of the House Committee on Finance
Nicole McCarty, Esq.