The Narragansett Bay Commission One Service Road Providence, Rhode Island 02905

401 • 461 • 8848 401 • 461 • 6540 FAX

http://www.narrabay.com



Vincent J. Mesolella Chairman

Laurie A. Horridge Executive Director

February 14, 2024

The Honorable Jacquelyn M. Baginski House Innovation, Internet & Technology State House Providence, RI 02903

RE: Narragansett Bay Commission; House Bill 7521; Against

Dear Chairperson Baginski and Members of the Committee:

I am writing to convey the Narragansett Bay Commission's (NBC) concerns with House Bill 7521.

NBC's concerns with this bill focus on the provisions of §42-166-6 specifically. Although NBC does not have issue with the general requirements in §42-166-1 et seq., the requirement that a policy with specific information surrounding NBC's uses of automated decision tools be posted publicly raises a number of concerns. NBC believes that posting such a policy or policies could supply potential bad actors with a roadmap that they could use to infiltrate NBC's systems. With access to those systems, bad actors could very well disrupt NBC's operations, exploit sensitive business and consumer data and ultimately cause significant damage.

Accordingly, NBC respectfully suggests an amendment to H7521 and §42-166-6 (at lines 25-32) as follows:

A deployer or developer shall make publicly available, in a readily accessible manner, adopt a clear policy that provides a summary of both of the following:

- (1) The types of automated decision tools currently in use or made available to others by the deployer or developer; and
- (2) How the developer manages the reasonably foreseeable risks of algorithmic discrimination that may arise from the use of the automated decision tools it currently uses or makes available to others.

NBC believes that the suggested amendment serves to keep the specific uses of automated decision tools private and sensitive information secure while still requiring the same level of assessment and responsibility intended by the drafters of this bill.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment.

Sincerely,

Jennifer J. Harrington, Esq.

General Counsel and Legislative Liaison

Semily Harryton, Esq.