



THE BAY CENTER  
100 Save The Bay Drive  
Providence, RI 02905  
phone: 401-272-3540  
fax: 401-273-7153  
[savebay@savebay.org](mailto:savebay@savebay.org)  
[www.savebay.org](http://www.savebay.org)

EXPLORATION CENTER  
Easton's Beach  
P.O. Box 851  
Newport, RI 02840  
phone: 401-324-6020  
fax: 401-324-6022

SOUTH COAST  
CENTER  
Riverside Building  
8 Broad Street  
Westerly, RI 02891  
phone/fax: 401-315-2709

Sent via email to: [HouseMunicipalGovernmentandHousing@rilegislature.gov](mailto:HouseMunicipalGovernmentandHousing@rilegislature.gov)

March 11, 2025

To: Representative Stephen Casey, Chairman, House Committee on Municipal Government and Housing

Re: House Bill 5310 – Save The Bay SUPPORTS amending the RI Housing & Conservation Trust Fund Act

Save The Bay is pleased to support proposed updates to the Rhode Island Housing and Conservation Trust Fund Act, as proposed in H5310 by Representative Speakman. The health of Narragansett Bay depends not just on what happens in the water and along the coast, but throughout the entire watershed, which extends from Worcester and Brockton in Massachusetts and encompasses most of the land in Rhode Island.

Save The Bay supports the objectives of H5310, which will make three basic improvements to the law that established the RI Housing and Conservation Trust Fund in 1990, including:

1. Increasing the number of board members from 9 to 15 to ensure a better representation of Rhode Island's diverse communities and seeking the appointment of stakeholders from the affordable housing, land use planning, and conservation fields;
2. Creating a designated account at the Rhode Island Infrastructure Bank to receive and expend future funding opportunities, and include additional funding sources that the trust fund can access; and
3. Improving the allocation of how future funds can be spent between low- and moderate-income housing and land conservation projects to achieve our overarching goals.

These simple yet important changes will improve land use planning and decision-making going forward.

Thank you for considering our comments.

Sincerely,

Jed Thorp  
Director of Advocacy  
Save The Bay  
[jthorp@savebay.org](mailto:jthorp@savebay.org)