



RHODE ISLAND
DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT
OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR
235 Promenade Street, Room 425
Providence, Rhode Island 02908

March 20, 2025

The Honorable Stephen M. Casey
Chairman
House Committee on Municipal Government and Housing
82 Smith Street
Providence, Rhode Island 02903

RE: H 5803 An Act Relating to Health and Safety – State Building Code

Dear Chairman Casey,

Thank you for providing the Department of Environmental Management (DEM) the opportunity to comment on H 5803, which would require multiple state agencies, including DEM, to implement an electronic permitting (e-permitting) system.

DEM is currently in the final stages of implementing an e-permitting platform covering the major land development permits within our purview. This includes permits related to freshwater wetlands, stormwater, and on-site wastewater treatment systems (OWTS). The system will allow applicants to submit permit applications entirely via an online portal and to obtain updates on the status of their application as it proceeds through the review process. DEM is also working to coordinate with our sister agencies to allow the e-permitting systems used by each agency to communicate with one another to provide a more efficient, customer-friendly permitting process.

We appreciate the opportunity to offer comments on this legislation and would be pleased to make ourselves available as needed. Please feel free to contact Ryan Mulcahey, DEM Director of Legislative Affairs, at ryan.mulcahey@dem.ri.gov should you have any additional questions or wish to discuss this matter further.

Sincerely,

Terrence Gray, P.E.
Director

cc: Members of the House Committee on Municipal Government and Housing
The Honorable K. Joseph Shekarchi, Speaker of the House
Nicole McCarty, Chief Legal Counsel to the Speaker of the House
Lynne Urbani, House Policy Director