

April 22, 2025

Rhode Island General Assembly  
House Municipal Government and Housing Committee  
State House – 82 Smith Street  
Providence, RI 02903

Re: **House Bills 5511 and 6069**

Dear Honorable House Committee members:

My name is Glenn Andreoni. I own property at 10 Seaview Ave., in Jamestown. I am here today to oppose both **House Bill 5511 and 6069**. My wife and I and my 84 year old mother all intend on moving to our Jamestown house, but unfortunately my well in Jamestown has failed. It started to fail about a few years back and got progressively worse to the point now where we can't flush the toilet or shower without running out of water. When we do shower, we shower in salt water. I hired a company a few years ago to install a whole house reverse osmosis system, at that time I wanted to continue using my well rather than apply for town water. After months of testing, the engineers from the company told me they cannot sell me a system because I don't have enough water coming out of my well. They also told me that my water is extremely contaminated. In fact, it doesn't even come close to meeting the federal or state industry standards. Lastly, they told me I can't frack my well or drill another well on my property due to the quality of my water as well as the septic and road set-backs and wetlands.

After spending a lot of money and pursuing every single opportunity available to obtain water for my property, to no avail, I then applied for town water under Rhode Island General Laws 46-15-2. The town's

water line will be approximately 100 feet away from my house, as they have already agreed to give my neighbor an extension. I agreed to pay 100% of the work and with expert reports I proved to the town my well has failed and that I have no other options which the law requires me to prove, yet, the town denied me water.

The town's denial to my application had been based on the fact that my property is located in a so-called "Rural District" and not the so called "Urban District", a requirement that the town arbitrarily applies based on which way the wind is blowing. There are many town water properties that are outside of the current "Urban District". In fact, the same day I appeared before the Town's Water Board for my water application, they granted a water hook up to a property that was also outside of their so-called "Urban District". This applicant had no proof whatsoever that they couldn't drill a well or that their water was bad, which I in fact proved. I have made it clear that my well has failed and that I am willing to pay for all the costs to hookup, yet they continue to deny my application because I'm in a "Rural District" and they don't have the water capacity, which my experts proved to be incorrect, while simultaneously they grant other applicants water within my designated district. To the best of my knowledge, they have also historically never denied anyone a water extension or hookup outside of this so-called urban district other than myself and my neighbors whom have also appealed the decision to the State Water Resource's Board.

Incredibly enough, the Town just recently issued a \$50,000 bond for a water main for a sailing school, which is outside of the so called "Urban Water District", so they can wash boats, yet my family can't even take a shower or flush the toilet. The town also is seeking to expand the water district significantly, about 3 times its current size, in their latest plan submitted to the state, yet they don't have enough water for my house. My property, which is to the north of the urban district and is literally 100 feet away from a water line to be installed, is

not included in this proposed expansion. Such conduct is a flagrant manipulation by the town to circumvent state law and this legislative body. I have never seen or heard of any act by a municipality so egregious in my 59 years of living in the State of Rhode Island and have appealed their decision to the State Water Resources Board. In fact, on April 7 the State Water Resources Board's Sub Panel, recommended to the full Board that the Town's decision be reversed and that hearing is tomorrow night, April 23<sup>rd</sup>. Once again, on the eve before our hearing this legislation is proposed.

The present state of the law that this House passed and the Senate unanimously passed, is an effective consumer protection law. It protects, promotes and provides for the health and well-being of its citizens and sets forth very difficult standards to meet in order to obtain water from a water supplier. Most applicants would be denied due to these rigid standards. Jamestown Water does not want to, nor do they, abide by these statewide standards. The law states that the applicant's well has to have failed state industry standards and there must be no other feasible way to obtain water, a standard that my property clearly meets. Further, the applicant must pay for the expenses. Lastly, and most importantly, the towns Water Supply System Management Plan must not prohibit the applicant. This provision means that the existing law in fact does allow for municipalities to regulate their water by specific language in their water supply system management plan (Rhode Island General Laws 46-15-2(b)(1)). **In other words, there is no need whatsoever for the Town of Jamestown Water or any other Water district for that matter to be exempt from this state law because the state law already authorizes water suppliers to regulate their water systems through their engineers and the state engineers.** Thus, there is a built-in exemption provided within the law as it exists. This is based on expert engineer review and carefully crafted scientific standards, not arbitrary determinations by local waterboard members.

The town now, via Bills 5511 and 6069, is attempting to exempt themselves from this statewide standard so they can arbitrarily pick and choose without any standard whatsoever who gets and who does not get water, irrespective of their needs, the complete opposite of the statute that this House correctly passed to protect its Citizens. Again, the current law already clearly allows for the exemption. Why a municipal water supplier would request an exemption makes no sense whatsoever.

The town neglected to address my properties' location in their Water Supply System Management plan, so today, literally on the evening prior to my hearing in front of an impartial State Water Resources Board, knowing that the State has told them to reverse their decision, is trying to sneak in a bill to completely exempt themselves from statewide standards and regulations so they can continue to arbitrarily grant and deny water hook ups, where and when they see fit, with no oversight. This space should be and is occupied by the State of Rhode Island and not local water board members.

The Town of Jamestown has offered this Amendment in order to avoid and to moot our appeal being given a fair and objective review by a state agency that they do not control. Their actions of submitting this Amendment on the eve of my appeal is evidence of their malicious intentions. The Town of Jamestown has presented no rational basis or explanation as to why it should not be held to the same standards as every other town in this State, standards previously set forth by this legislative body.

I respectfully request you deny House Bill 5511 and 6069. Thank you for your consideration.

Glenn and Marjorie Andreoni  
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