

Written Testimony Regarding House Bill #5511
Submitted by: Nancy Beye, Jamestown, RI

Dear Chairperson and Members of the Committee,

I am writing to express my concerns regarding House Bill #5511, which seeks to create uniform standards for water supply across all 39 cities and towns in Rhode Island.

While I understand and appreciate the intent behind this bill, I respectfully urge the committee to consider the unique nature of Jamestown. As a small island community, Jamestown does not have access to an unlimited water supply. Our water resources are finite and carefully managed by the Jamestown Water Commissioners, who currently serve within a clearly designated and defined water district. This structure ensures that water service is provided sustainably and responsibly, based on the town's natural capacity and infrastructure.

House Bill #5511, as currently written, does not take into account the geographic, environmental, and logistical differences between communities like Jamestown and larger mainland municipalities. A one-size-fits-all approach to water policy may inadvertently put small island towns at risk of overextension and strain on already limited resources.

Therefore, I respectfully request that Jamestown be granted an exemption from House Bill #5511. I strongly urge that the authority of the Jamestown Water Commissioners to manage and supply water only within their designated district be preserved. This exemption is essential for the continued protection of our island's limited water supply and the responsible management of future growth.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,
Nancy Beye
Jamestown, RI