

Rhode Island General Assembly
House Municipal Government and Housing Committee
State House
One capitol Hill
Providence RI 02903

Concern Regarding House Bills 5511 and 6069

Dear Members of the Rhode Island House of Representatives:

My name is Paul Frechette and my wife, and I are the owners and residents of our home at 19 Seaview Avenue, Jamestown RI. We have been experiencing water issues at our home since 2016. We are on our second well after the first well became unusable because of saltwater intrusion. The second well initially met state industry flow rates standards but has subsequently deteriorated to well below such standards.

The General Assembly in 2022 passed RIGL 46-15-2, which protected citizens who meet strict enumerated standards, the ability to access the town water supply. In January 2024 we applied for a connection to the Town of Jamestown Water system, but we were arbitrarily denied after providing numerous professional testimonies and affidavits proving we complied with the standards stated in the 2022 law.

We along with three other denied applicants from our immediate neighborhood have appealed the Town's decision to the Rhode Island Water Resource Board. Our legal representatives and representatives from the Town presented our individual cases to the Prehearing Board on March 12, 2025. After hearing arguments from all the parties, at a subsequent meeting, the Prehearing Board voted unanimously to recommend to the full board to reverse the Town's decision to deny the four applicants. The Water Resource Board is scheduled to meet April 23, 2025 to receive and take under advisement the recommendation of the Prehearing Board.

The Town is continuing to try to circumvent the existing law and exempt themselves from the 2022 law. In addition to House Bill 5511, which specially mentions Jamestown, Bill 6069 attempts to combine Jamestown and New Shoreham to try to exempt themselves from the law. It seems to me that the two towns have unique circumstances and should separately attempt to put forward their own legislation.

Presently in the law there is a provision which allows cities and towns to get an exemption from the law, which the Town has not availed itself of. Therefore, there is no need to put forward the two proposed bills.

Thank you for taking the time to hear my case and respectfully request that you vote to reject the two proposed bills and require the Town of Jamestown to provide the applicants with the water they so desperately need from the Town's system.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Paul D. Frechette". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned above the printed name and address.

Paul D. Frechette

19 Seaview Avenue, Jamestown RI 02835