



March 24, 2026

Chairman Stephen M. Casey
House Committee on Municipal Government and Housing
State House
Providence, RI 02903

The Hon. Brett P. Smiley
Mayor
Ricky Caruolo
General Manager

Re: H 8014 – An Act Relating to State Affairs and Government - Farmland Preservation Act

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Dear Chairman Casey:

The Providence Water Supply Board would like to take this opportunity to express our support for the passage of H 8014 which would exempt agricultural operation owners from connection impact fees related to the extension or connection to a water main.

Providence Water owns and operates the largest water utility in Rhode Island. We are responsible for supplying affordable, high-quality drinking water to more than 600,000 retail and wholesale customers throughout the state. Providence Water is an enterprise fund and prohibited by the RI Public Utilities Commission from making a profit. Providence Water is allowed to assess specific water service connection and installation fees per tariff schedules provided by the RI Public Utilities Commission.

While Providence Water initially expressed concern regarding this issue, we have worked with the sponsor over the past year to address our concerns and are pleased to support the passage of H 8014.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this legislation.

Respectfully,
PROVIDENCE WATER SUPPLY BOARD

Ricky Caruolo
General Manager

MEMBER
Rhode Island Water Works Assn.
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