

Mayor of Providence

---

Brett P. Smiley

March 31, 2026

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

Dear Chair Casey and Honorable Members of the Committee:

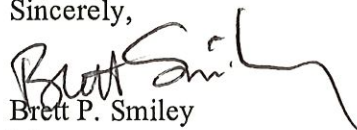
I am writing to express my strong support for House Bill 7218, *An Act Relating to Highways – Crook Point Bridge Authority Act*. If enacted, this legislation would create the Crook Point Bridge Authority, an independent entity responsible for the ownership, preservation, and maintenance of the Crook Point Bascule Bridge and any related property.

As you may be aware, the Rhode Island Department of Transportation (RIDOT) had released plans to demolish the Crook Point Bridge in 2016. Following extensive community feedback and advocacy, RIDOT halted those plans due to recognition of the historic nature of the structure. Since that time, the City of Providence has been working closely with RIDOT to identify a long-term governance and maintenance solution for the bridge.

House Bill 7218 would create the Crook Point Bridge Authority, which would allow for the transfer of ownership to the City and would ensure long-term stewardship of the bridge. The authority would be responsible for all development and maintenance of Crook Point Bridge. Without passage, oversight of the Crook Point Bridge remains in a state of limbo, risking potential deterioration which runs counter to community feedback and the desire for preservation.

I thank Representative Kislak for sponsoring House Bill 7218 and respectfully urge the committee to vote in favor of this legislation.

Sincerely,



Brett P. Smiley  
Mayor