



PROVIDENCE WATER

Tap Water Delivers

April 6, 2026

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

Re: H 8032 – An Act Relating to Towns and Cities - Low and Moderate Income Housing

The Hon. Brett P. Smiley
Mayor

Ricky Caruolo
General Manager

Dear Chairman Casey:


The Providence Water Supply Board would like to take this opportunity to express our support for the passage of H 8032 which would eliminate density bonuses for public drinking water supply watersheds. It would also require that densities not exceed water availability, introduce pollution, and stay within public water system capacity limits.

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’s watershed consists of nearly 93 square miles of land that water flows across or under on its way to the Scituate Reservoir. We own more than 25 square miles of land within the watershed area and continuously work to reduce water pollution and protect drinking water quality at its source. Since 1989, approximately 4,200 acres of watershed land has been acquired for water quality protection purposes through fee simple or development rights purchases.

Watershed protection is crucial to ensuring high-quality drinking water. Land use directly impacts water quality, and higher housing densities in the watershed will introduce pollutants from roadways, septic systems and fertilizers into the reservoir through stormwater runoff. Providence Water supports H 8032 as a necessary measure to safeguard our water supply for future generations.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this legislation.

Respectfully,
PROVIDENCE WATER SUPPLY BOARD


Ricky Caruolo,
General Manager

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(401) 521-6300

125 Dupont Drive
Providence, RI 02907

www.provwater.com

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