



Rhode Island

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February 23, 2021

Representative Carol Hagan McEntee  
Chair, House Committee on Small Business  
Rhode Island State House  
Providence RI 02908

**Re: TNC supports the House Bill 5411 on Climate Resilience and Long-Term Economic Development**

Dear Chair McEntee,

The Nature Conservancy is grateful for the opportunity to **support** House Bill 5411, which would add climate change and sea level rise and coastal resiliency to the data and analysis considered in economic development planning in Rhode Island. It also adds the Department of Environmental Management and the Coastal Resources Management Council to the Economic Development Planning Council.

The Nature Conservancy is a global organization dedicated to conserving the lands and waters on which all life depends. We have chapters in all fifty U.S. states and in nearly 80 countries around the globe. Here in Rhode Island, we steward more than 10,000 acres of protected land, we have partnered to protect 35,000 acres of land across the state, and we have more than 4000 members.

At The Nature Conservancy, we realize that we cannot succeed in our core mission to protect the land and water on which all life depends without engaging seriously with climate change – both mitigation and adaptation. As an organization, we have a Shared Conservation Agenda, and “**Tackle Climate Change**” is one of our two primary priorities, along with our traditional work to “Protect Land and Water.”

The Nature Conservancy is also a partner with the Rhode Island Infrastructure Bank on the Municipal Resilience Program (MRP) – which works with each municipality individually to plan and implement projects to increase their climate resilience. We know from the science and data – but also our firsthand experience in the MRP cities and towns – that the impacts of climate change are here and are impacting the daily lives and businesses of Rhode Islanders. From coastal and inland flooding, to increased storm frequency and intensity – Rhode Island residents and businesses are impacted by climate now and will continue to be so into the future. We will need a ‘whole of government’ approach to climate change – and the State’s economic development strategy should take into account what the latest science tells us about sea level rise and other impacts of a changing climate.

We are grateful to you and the bill’s sponsors for their leadership and the opportunity to provide this written testimony.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Sue AnderBois".

Sue AnderBois  
Climate and Energy Program Manager  
The Nature Conservancy in Rhode Island

The Nature Conservancy is a global organization dedicated to conserving the lands and waters on which all life depends. Working in more than 70 countries, we are tackling climate change, conserving lands, waters and oceans, and helping make cities more sustainable. Here in Rhode Island, we have 4,000 members, and we steward more than 10,000 acres of protected land while maintaining 78 miles of public walking trails.