



Beavertail Lighthouse Museum Association

Dedicated to Preservation and Education

P.O. Box 83 Jamestown, RI 02835

February 8, 2022

Chairwoman Kathleen Fogarty
Members of the Special Legislation Committee
General Assembly
State of Rhode Island

Dear Chairwoman Fogarty and Members:

Thank you so much for considering Bill H7096 for approval of new RI license plates to benefit Beavertail Lighthouse Museum.

Beavertail is the third oldest Lighthouse in North America, built in 1749. Beavertail Lighthouse Museum Association (BLMA) has worked to preserve this historic landmark since 1993 and has plans to continue to maintain the buildings and grounds for future generations. The 2,000+ sq ft museum offers free admission and features lighthouse facts and exhibits, a shipwreck database, and Narragansett Bay's maritime history. During the season, BLMA hosts group tours for different organizations and schools from around Rhode Island and the New England area. BLMA also hosts summer tower climbs, a unique opportunity for visitors from every state and many countries to experience the amazing views. In 2021, RI DEM calculated that approximately 627,000 visitors came to Beavertail State Park making this site an important tourist destination.

Beavertail Lighthouse Museum is managed and staffed 100% by volunteers. We rely solely on donations, grants, gift shop sales and fundraisers to meet all expenses. In late summer 2021, we were presented with the idea of having license plates with Beavertail's image on them as a way of raising funds. Our Board of Directors was very enthusiastic about this and approved this plan at our August 19, 2021 meeting. Soon after, Representative Deborah Ruggiero graciously agreed to sponsor a bill to secure the approval of the General Assembly.

One of our Board members has been working actively with RI DMV to review the necessary requirements and design parameters. I am attaching a draft of a drawing showing the design of the new plate. To accomplish the goal of getting 600 preorders, we are seeking support from many of our partners in the community, including the Jamestown Historical Society, the Jamestown Chamber of Commerce, and the Town of Jamestown. We feel confident that we will be able to launch a successful marketing campaign to secure the 600 preorders that are necessary to move this forward with RI DMV.

Beavertail Lighthouse Museum Association intends to use the funds generated from this endeavor to preserve and protect this historic site as a legacy to pass on to future generations.

On behalf of the Beavertail Lighthouse Museum Association, I would like to thank you again for your consideration of our request.

Sincerely yours,

Diane Bakley
President, BLMA