February 1, 2022

The Honorable Evan P. Shanley
Chair, House Committee on State Government and Elections
State House
Providence, RI 02903

**Re: 2022 H-7256-CONCURRENT RESOLUTION EXTENDING POWER
          CONFERRED UPON THE GOVERNOR**

Dear Chairperson Shanley:

The Department of Revenue ("DOR") writes in strong support of House Concurrent Resolution No. 7256, Extending Power Conferred Upon the Governor.
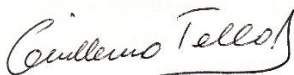
The emergence and spread of COVID-19 over two years ago commenced a period of unprecedented global changes that is still ongoing. Its profound impact on all aspects of our daily lives, including the provision of governmental services, cannot be understated.

Fortunately, Rhode Island law provides a mechanism for government to combat the negative effects of the COVID-19 pandemic. The emergency declarations issued by Governor McKee and former Governor Raimondo enabled the issuance of Executive Orders that allow executive branch agencies, including DOR, to respond appropriately to address and mitigate the challenges faced by Rhode Island residents.

Unfortunately, the presence of COVID-19 and its variants still have a negative impact on daily life. This requires our government to continue to respond through all available mechanisms. The extension of the Governor's powers under the existing emergency declaration and all responsive Executive Orders through April 15, 2022 is necessary for Rhode Island to maintain its proactive approach in combating the negative effects of the pandemic as we progress through what we all hope are its final stages. These tools will allow Rhode Island government to continue to maximize its ability to respond in dynamic ways that best serve the people of Rhode Island.

Thank you for your consideration and I urge your passage of House Concurrent Resolution No. 7256.

Sincerely,

Guillermo L. Tello
Director

Cc: Honorable K. Joseph Shekarchi
       Honorable Members of the House Committee on State Government and Elections