



RHODE ISLAND
DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT

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February 29, 2024

The Honorable Evan P. Shanley
Chairman
House Committee on State Government and Elections
82 Smith Street
Providence, Rhode Island 02903

RE: H 7469 An Act Relating to Health and Safety – Interstate Compact on Industrialized/Modular Buildings

Dear Chairman Shanley,

Thank you for providing the Department of Environmental Management (DEM) the opportunity to comment on H 7469, which would repeal Rhode Island's participation in the Interstate Compact on Industrialized/Modular Buildings (Compact). DEM supports this legislation.

Each year, DEM hosts the world-renowned Newport Jazz Festival and Newport Folk Festival at Fort Adams State Park. These festivals attract thousands of visitors from across the United States and the world to Rhode Island. The Newport Festivals Foundation, which is the non-profit entity responsible for organizing the two festivals, has for the last several years encountered logistical issues related to the temporary structures erected to facilitate the festivals due to Rhode Island's participation in the Compact. It is DEM's understanding that only four states, including Rhode Island, have joined the Compact since it was established in 1990 and that while it may have been well-intentioned at the time it now provides little benefit to the state. For this reason, we support ending Rhode Island's participation in the Compact.

We appreciate the opportunity to offer comments on this legislation and would be pleased to make ourselves available as needed. Please feel free to contact Mary Kay, DEM Assistant Director and Chief Legal Counsel, at mary.kay@dem.ri.gov should you have any additional questions or wish to discuss this matter further.

Sincerely,

Terrence Gray, P.E.
Director

cc: Members of the House Committee on State Government and Elections
The Honorable Lauren Carson
Nicole McCarty, Esq., Chief Legal Counsel to the Speaker of the House
Lynne Urbani, House Policy Director