



State of Rhode Island
Lieutenant Governor Sabina Matos

March 31, 2026

The Hon. Robert Britto
Chair, Senate Committee on Commerce
82 Smith Street
Providence, RI 02903

RE: Senate Bill 2640 — Catastrophe Savings Accounts Act -- SUPPORT

Dear Chair Britto:

I write in support of Senate Bill 2640, the Catastrophe Savings Accounts Act.

Rhode Island homeowners know firsthand that severe weather events are no longer rare. From coastal flooding to damaging wind storms, the financial impact of a single catastrophic event can be devastating, particularly for working families and seniors on fixed incomes who may not have the savings to cover a large insurance deductible or uncovered repairs. S2640 offers a practical, proactive solution.

By establishing a tax-deductible savings account specifically designated for catastrophe-related expenses, this bill empowers Rhode Islanders to prepare before disaster strikes rather than scramble after it. The contribution limits are sensibly structured, scaling to reflect the actual deductible a homeowner carries, and the fee waiver for interest income further incentivizes participation.

Resilience is an equity challenge as much as infrastructure challenge. When a hurricane or flood hits, it is often our most financially vulnerable neighbors who are least equipped to recover. Tools like catastrophe savings accounts help close that gap, putting more Rhode Islanders in a position to protect their homes and their financial stability.

As our state continues to grapple with the growing costs of climate-related events, forward-thinking policies like S2640 are exactly the kind of common-sense preparation our communities deserve. I respectfully urge the committee to advance this legislation.

Sincerely,

Sabina Matos
Lieutenant Governor
State of Rhode Island