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SUPPORTING CONTEXT SHEET (CONDENSED)
Rhode Island Senate Committee on Commerce | May 5, 2026

CORE PRINCIPLE

Informed Consent at the Community Level

Communities must understand what is proposed, who is responsible, and how it is monitored.
Without clarity, consent is not meaningful.

CURRENT CHALLENGE

Environmental decisions are distributed across multiple entities, including QDC, DEM, CRMC. **No single entity provides a complete, accessible picture to the public.**

GOVERNANCE GAP

- Fragmented permitting pathways
- Unclear accountability
- Diffused monitoring and enforcement
- Limited public understanding

REAL-WORLD OBSERVATION

Residents are often required to navigate multiple agencies / councils / committees for a single issue, with no unified accountability.

This is where informed consent breaks down.

WHY THESE BILLS MATTER

S3224: Ensures governance clarity before deployment of industrial-scale technologies.

S3225: Creates a coordinated framework for evaluating sludge management statewide.

KEY TAKEAWAY

Oversight without clarity becomes diffusion of responsibility.

Clarity is required for informed consent.

Related public concerns are currently being raised in Rhode Island Title V permitting discussions regarding monitoring, classification, and enforcement.

The Foundation for Bioethics in Technology

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STAY HUMAN EVERYONE!

