



*Distinctive Communities
Powerful Alliance*

May 5, 2026

The Honorable Senator Robert Britto, Chair
Senate Commerce Committee
Rhode Island State Senate
82 Smith Street
Providence, RI 02903

RE: JOINT RESOLUTION 3225 – CREATING A SPECIAL JOINT LEGISLATIVE COMMISSION TO STUDY
SLUDGE MANAGEMENT IN RHODE ISLAND

Chair Britto and Honorable Committee Members,

On behalf of the Rhode Island League of Cities and Towns, we respectfully submit testimony in support of Joint Resolution 3225, which establishes a special joint legislative commission to conduct a comprehensive review of sludge management practices in Rhode Island.

The League appreciates the opportunity to participate in this important effort and thanks the General Assembly for including municipal representation in the proposed commission. Local governments play a central role in wastewater management, biosolids handling, and the operational and financial impacts associated with sludge processing. Ensuring that municipalities have a voice at the table will be critical to the success of this study.

The subject matter addressed in this resolution is of significant importance to Rhode Island's communities. Effective sludge management is essential to protecting public health, safeguarding groundwater and soil quality, and ensuring that municipalities can manage wastewater treatment responsibilities in a cost-effective and environmentally responsible manner. The commission's scope, including evaluation of existing infrastructure, cost to ratepayers, environmental and climate impacts, and emerging technologies such as pyrolysis, reflects a thoughtful and forward-looking approach.

The League supports the commission's goal of identifying statewide solutions and improving the long-term sustainability of sludge and biosolids management. We also appreciate the inclusion of key stakeholders, including municipal leadership, environmental agencies, treatment facility operators, and subject matter experts, which will help ensure a balanced and informed review.

We are grateful for the opportunity to serve on this commission and to contribute municipal perspective to this important policy discussion. The League looks forward to working collaboratively with the General Assembly and all stakeholders to advance practical and effective solutions.

Thank you for your time and consideration of our perspective.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "R. Rossi", is written over a light blue horizontal line.

Randy R. Rossi
Executive Director

Cc: Senate Commerce Committee