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Bristol, RI 02809

February 25, 2026

www.vatn.com

Nelson Mills
Vatn Systems

RE: Article 3, Section 15

Dear House Committee,

This Letter of Support is in regards to Article 3, Section 15.

Vatn Systems designs, builds, and operates low-cost, high-performance autonomous undersea vehicles, with a focus on affordable rapid development, producibility, and fielded capability rather than bespoke prototypes. Vatn is based in Bristol and Tiverton, Rhode Island, with facilities that support design, integration, and in-water testing.

Vatn previously participated in the RI Commerce Corporations Innovation Voucher program, and our experience was highly positive. The program provided meaningful support that helped accelerate technical development on a collaboration to enable fully autonomous maritime charging, and broadly speaking advance our ability to build innovative products within Rhode Island.

Access to this type of funding is especially impactful for early-stage and advanced manufacturing companies. The voucher program reduces barriers to collaboration, enables faster prototyping and iteration, and helps keep high-value engineering and manufacturing activity within the state.

Programs like this directly contribute to Rhode Island's innovation ecosystem by supporting small businesses, encouraging local supply chain engagement, and fostering workforce development in advanced manufacturing sectors.

For these reasons, Vatn strongly supports Article 3, Section 15 and the continued investment in the RI Commerce Corporations Innovation Voucher program.

Sincerely,
Nelson Mills
CEO