

Portsmouth Water and Fire District



1944 East Main Road
P.O. Box 99
Portsmouth, Rhode Island 02871-0099

•
(401) 683-2090

Fax (401) 682-1550

E-mail: info@portsmouthwater.org

To: SenateFinance@rilegislature.gov

Senate Finance Committee

RE: S3132 – Position Support

Written Testimony to Support S3132

Jessica Lynch, P.E.

General Manager & Chief Engineer
Portsmouth Water and Fire District

I respectfully submit this written testimony in strong support of S3132. Relocation of utilities under current law (24-8.1-2) places a burden on municipal and quasi-municipal public utilities that provide public water service to its customers without regard for 1) availability of funding; 2) current plans and construction already undertaken by the utilities; 3) probable conflict with short, medium and long term planning by the utilities; 4) as well as ignoring necessary and advisable permitting and approval processes for many of the utilities subject to RI State Water Resources Board, RIDOH, and EPA rules, and regulations.

Many of the state roadway projects that 24-8.1-2 applies to are federally funded. Requiring a local utility to contribute to a project that is already fully funded may interfere with the outside funding for the overall project and additionally is demanding a financial contribution for something that RIDOT already has adequate funding for.

Portsmouth Water District fully supports S3132 which would amend 24-8.1-2 as it applies to utilities and removes the burdensome unexpected and unnecessary costs to our local public utilities.

If you have any questions or require any additional information, please contact me at (401) 683-2090.

Respectfully,

Jessica Lynch, PE

General Manager and Chief Engineer

Portsmouth Water & Fire District

1944 East Main Rd.

Portsmouth, RI 02871

Phone (401)683-2090x224

Email jlynch@portsmouthwater.org