

April 28, 2026

The Honorable Senator Louis P. DiPalma, Chair  
Senate Finance Committee  
Rhode Island State Senate  
82 Smith Street  
Providence, RI 02903

RE: SENATE BILL 3181 - AN ACT RELATING TO THE BLUE WAVE BOND FOR COASTAL PREPAREDNESS -- 2026 BOND REFERENDUM

Chair DiPalma and Honorable Committee Members,

On behalf of the Rhode Island League of Cities and Towns, we respectfully submit this letter in support of Senate Bill 3181, which would authorize a statewide general obligation bond of up to one hundred million dollars (\$100,000,000), subject to voter approval, to support coastal preparedness and resilience investments across Rhode Island.

This legislation represents a meaningful and timely opportunity to advance critical infrastructure and environmental resilience priorities that directly impact municipalities and the residents they serve. Rhode Island's cities and towns continue to face increasing challenges related to coastal erosion, flooding, stormwater management, and the protection of essential public infrastructure. Investments of this nature are essential to ensuring that our communities remain safe, sustainable, and economically viable in the face of changing climate conditions.

The League particularly appreciates the bill's broad and forward-looking eligibility framework, which includes shoreline protection, flood mitigation, stormwater and wastewater system improvements, protection of critical facilities, and enhancements to port and working waterfront infrastructure. These components reflect many of the core resilience needs identified by municipalities statewide. We also recognize and support the inclusion of workforce preparedness and training initiatives within the bond program, as strengthening the pipeline of skilled workers in resilience-related fields will be essential to ensuring these investments are effectively implemented and sustained over time.

The League further emphasizes the importance of ensuring that funding is accessible to municipalities of all sizes and geographic regions, and that implementation processes provide clarity, transparency, and meaningful opportunities for local input as projects are prioritized and advanced.

In closing, the Rhode Island League of Cities and Towns appreciates the General Assembly's continued commitment to strengthening Rhode Island's resilience and infrastructure and respectfully urges passage of Senate Bill 3181.

We look forward to continuing our work with state leaders to ensure the successful implementation of this legislation in close partnership with municipalities across the state.

Thank you for your consideration and for your ongoing partnership with Rhode Island's cities and towns.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "R. R. Rossi".

Randy R. Rossi  
Executive Director

Cc: Honorable Members of Senate Finance Committee