

2017 -- H 5317

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STATE OF RHODE ISLAND

IN GENERAL ASSEMBLY

JANUARY SESSION, A.D. 2017

H O U S E R E S O L U T I O N

RESPECTFULLY REQUESTING THE RHODE ISLAND DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT TO CONDUCT A STUDY OF THE IMPACT THE NEW ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY POLICIES AND RULES WILL HAVE ON ITS ABILITY TO PRESERVE AND PROTECT RHODE ISLAND'S NATURAL RESOURCES

Introduced By: Representatives Carson, Handy, Donovan, Marszalkowski, and Bennett

Date Introduced: February 01, 2017

Referred To: House Environment and Natural Resources

1 WHEREAS, Rhode Islanders are blessed to have natural resources that are renowned
2 word-wide for their beauty. We have 40 miles of coastline and 384 miles of shoreline, and a
3 magnificent bay that provides Rhode Island residents with a bevy of recreational opportunities
4 ranging from fishing and swimming to sailing, water skiing, surfing and scuba diving. Our
5 oceanic wonders also provide our residents with a plethora of delectable seafood and provide our
6 world-class restaurants with all the resources they need to create tasty and innovative cuisine.
7 Therefore, it is vital that these natural resources are vigorously protected; and

8 WHEREAS, The new Presidential administration is proposing deep cuts in the United
9 States Environmental Administrations (EPA). Media reports and quotes from administration
10 officials suggest that the EPA might lose \$1 billion from its \$8 billion budget and significant cuts
11 in its 15,000 strong workforce; and

12 WHEREAS, Reductions of this magnitude in personnel and monetary resources are sure
13 to strain the EPA's ability to preserve and protect the natural resources all Americans rely upon
14 for their drinking water, clean air, and recreational opportunities. Cuts of this size seem sure to
15 have a negative impact on the ability to preserve Rhode Island's precious resources; and

16 WHEREAS, Investments in clean water, clean air, and renewable energy are consistent
17 with existing efforts of the Department of Environmental Management; and

18 WHEREAS, Climate change, flooding and sea rise are beginning to take a toll on the

1 Rhode Island economy and our critical infrastructure investments; now, therefore be it

2 RESOLVED, That this House of Representatives of the State of Rhode Island and
3 Providence Plantations hereby respectfully requests that the Rhode Island Department of
4 Environmental Management conduct a preliminary study of the impact the new Environmental
5 Protection Agency policies, rules and funding proposals will have on its ability to preserve and
6 protect Rhode Island's natural resources and enforce current state statutes. The Rhode Island
7 DEM is requested to report its initial findings to the Rhode Island House of Representatives no
8 later than April 20, 2017; and be it further

9 RESOLVED, That the Secretary of State be and hereby is authorized and directed to
10 transmit duly certified copies of this resolution to Gina M. Raimondo, Governor of the State of
11 Rhode Island, and Janet L. Coit, Director, Rhode Island Department of Environmental
12 Management.

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