

2015 -- H 5991

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STATE OF RHODE ISLAND

IN GENERAL ASSEMBLY

JANUARY SESSION, A.D. 2015

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 RESOLVE THE ALLEN'S AVENUE WATERFRONT POLLUTION COMPLAINT

Introduced By: Representatives Almeida, Carnevale, McKiernan, Williams, and Regunberg

Date Introduced: March 26, 2015

Referred To: House read and passed

1 WHEREAS, In 2012, two recycling companies, Rhode Island Recycled Metals and Sims
2 Metal Management, were ordered to stop certain activities due to allegedly operating without
3 proper permits; and

4 WHEREAS, Rhode Island Recycled Metals stands accused of not having the proper
5 permits to salvage automobiles or dismantle marine vessels at its waterfront site on Allen's
6 Avenue. It has also been accused of failing to install the required storm runoff controls and
7 having oil leaks on their property grounds. The company was ordered to pay a \$33,750 fine, to
8 stop all car crushing, to stop receiving new scrap metal, derelict vessels or automobiles, and to
9 install a pollution containment boom in the river around the property; and

10 WHEREAS, Sims Metal Management was fined \$25,000 and ordered to stop receiving
11 any new scrap metal at the site, to stop accepting any new ship repair jobs, and to remove all
12 scrap metal from the facility within sixty days; and

13 WHEREAS, Tom Kutcher, Save the Bay's baykeeper, has expressed "dismay at the
14 blatant and continuing violations of regulations intended to protect Narragansett Bay" and Save
15 the Bay has repeatedly urged the Rhode Island Department of Environmental Management to
16 take quicker and firmer action to stop these scrap metal companies from continuing these harmful
17 activities; and

18 WHEREAS, It has now been three years since the Rhode Island DEM charged the two
19 scrap metal companies with committing numerous violations of Rhode Island's environmental

1 regulations, and these two companies are still in business and they continue to break the law and
2 harm the environment. The Providence waterfront and Narragansett Bay, two of Rhode Island's
3 most precious natural resources, continue to suffer harm on a daily basis from the activities of
4 these two scrap metal companies; now, therefore be it

5 RESOLVED, That this House of Representatives hereby respectfully requests that the
6 Rhode Island Department of Environmental Management promptly adjudicates and resolves the
7 Allen's Avenue waterfront pollution complaint; and be it further

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

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