

2024 -- H 8016

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STATE OF RHODE ISLAND

IN GENERAL ASSEMBLY

JANUARY SESSION, A.D. 2024

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HOUSE RESOLUTION

RESPECTFULLY REQUESTING THE US ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS TO STUDY  
AND PROVIDE RECOMMENDATIONS TO RESTORE THE OPERATIONAL  
EFFECTIVENESS OF THE POINT JUDITH BREAKWATER

Introduced By: Representative P. Morgan

Date Introduced: March 05, 2024

Referred To: House State Government & Elections

1 WHEREAS, Point Judith Harbor breakwater is a partial border between the communities  
2 of Narragansett and South Kingstown, and connects Point Judith Harbor with the Atlantic by a  
3 narrow waterway that cuts through the beaches and sandy shoreline; and

4 WHEREAS, Used by a large fishing fleet and local and transient recreational craft, Point  
5 Judith Harbor handles a large amount of passenger traffic, primarily during the summer; and

6 WHEREAS, Original work on the breakwater for the Point Judith Harbor dates back to  
7 1905, and in 1914, additional breakwater projects were completed, with updates in 1950 and  
8 1977; and

9 WHEREAS, The breakwater work consists of a 6,970-foot-long main stone breakwater in  
10 Point Judith Harbor, a 2,240-foot-long stone breakwater extending southwesterly from Point  
11 Judith, and a 3,640-foot-long stone breakwater extending southerly from the entrance to Point  
12 Judith Pond. These three structures provide shelter for refuge, search and rescue operations, a  
13 commercial harbor, and a sandy, recreational shoreline; and

14 WHEREAS, When first constructed, the structure reached over 8-10 feet above the water  
15 line but is now easily overwhelmed by waves, leaving the surrounding area inadequately  
16 protected from storms and rising sea levels; and

17 WHEREAS, Over the past 46 years, these barriers have received no maintenance or  
18 repair and have suffered significant damage due to wave erosion and neglect, leaving them in a  
19 severely damaged state, and with questionable functional efficiency compared to the as-built

1 condition; and

2 WHEREAS, The safety of our State's fishing fleet, docks and the surrounding homes and  
3 businesses are threatened by the degradation of the barrier structure; now, therefore be it

4 RESOLVED, That this House of Representatives of the State of Rhode Island hereby  
5 requests that the US Army Corps of Engineers revisit the Pt. Judith breakwater and restore it to  
6 the benefit of the area and to our State; and be it further

7 RESOLVED, That the Secretary of State be and hereby is authorized and directed to  
8 transmit a duly certified copy of this resolution to the New England District, US Army Corps of  
9 Engineers.

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