

2019 -- S 1020

LC002805

STATE OF RHODE ISLAND

IN GENERAL ASSEMBLY

JANUARY SESSION, A.D. 2019

SENATE RESOLUTION

CELEBRATING RHODE ISLAND'S NO.1 RANKING FOR THE BEST NATURAL ENVIRONMENT IN 2019

Introduced By: Senator V. Susan Sosnowski

Date Introduced: June 26, 2019

Referred To: Placed on the Senate Consent Calendar

1 WHEREAS, According to the U.S. News & World Report's 2019 annual rankings,
2 released in May, Rhode Island ranked first in the nation for air and water quality, and is the top
3 state for natural environment; and

4 WHEREAS, In order to determine the best and worst states, various rankings based on 80
5 metrics, including economy, infrastructure, public safety, fiscal stability, and opportunities for
6 residents, are measured and determined. The rankings also factor in healthcare, education, crime
7 and corrections, and the natural environment; and

8 WHEREAS, Among the measures used to evaluate states' natural environments were
9 drinking water quality, urban air quality and total toxic chemical pollution per square mile; and

10 WHEREAS, Rhode Island's policymakers have enacted legislation and implemented
11 numerous regulations over the past decade to ensure a safe relationship between the people of the
12 State and the State's environment; and

13 WHEREAS, These laws and regulations have not only helped preserve the state's natural
14 resources, but have also protected the public from harmful toxins and resulting health concerns;
15 and

16 WHEREAS, The Rhode Island Department of Environmental Management (DEM)
17 serves as the chief steward of the state's natural resources and has diligently worked with myriad
18 partners including the Coastal Resources Management Council, the Audubon Society of Rhode
19 Island, and the Narragansett Bay Commission, to restore the state's lands and waters, to conserve

1 wildlife and marine resources, and to monitor environmental quality in order to build healthy,
2 more resilient communities; and

3 WHEREAS, Rhode Island's Congressional Delegation has been tireless in their advocacy
4 for key programs in support of air, land and water conservation including, working to safeguard
5 the Land and Water Conservation Fund, bringing tens of millions of dollars in federal funding for
6 Clean Water and Safe Drinking Water State Revolving Funds, spearheading efforts to pass the
7 American Opportunity Carbon Fee Act, a federal law that would impose fees on carbon and
8 greenhouse gas emissions, and creating the Blackstone Valley National Historic Park, to name
9 but a few; and

10 WHEREAS, For the past four decades the Rhode Island General Assembly has passed
11 and Governors have signed countless bills designed to protect the Ocean State's natural resources
12 and have supported and approved legislation for open space and clean water bonds. In addition,
13 Rhode Island was one of the 18 states that supported the Clean Power Plan that would implement
14 an EPA-approved plan to reduce air pollutants from industrial facilities such as chemical plants
15 and utilities, and has passed legislation earning Rhode Island the distinction of being a national
16 leader in both renewable energy and energy efficiency; and

17 WHEREAS, Rhode Island's joint efforts to safeguard the state's natural environment have
18 brought about accountability, meaningful action, and laudatory results; now, therefore be it

19 RESOLVED, That this Senate of the State of Rhode Island and Providence Plantations
20 hereby celebrates Rhode Island's No.1 ranking for the best natural environment in 2019 by the
21 U.S. News & World Report; and be it further

22 RESOLVED, That the Secretary of State be and hereby is authorized and directed to
23 transmit duly certified copies of this resolution to the Director of the Rhode Island Department of
24 Environmental Management, the Coastal Resources Management Council, the Audubon Society
25 of Rhode Island, the Narragansett Bay Commission, and the Rhode Island Congressional
26 Delegation.

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