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**STATE OF RHODE ISLAND**

**IN GENERAL ASSEMBLY**

**JANUARY SESSION, A.D. 2012**

**SENATE RESOLUTION**

**SUPPORTING LEGISLATIVE AMENDMENTS TO PROTECT RHODE ISLAND'S  
COASTAL REGIONS**

Introduced By: Senators Algieri, and Sosnowski

Date Introduced: January 10, 2012

Referred To: Placed on the Senate Consent Calendar

1           WHEREAS, The Rhode Island Department of Environmental Management (“DEM”) has  
2 adopted regulations intended to protect Rhode Island’s coastal regions from pollution caused by  
3 ailing and antiquated on-site wastewater treatment systems (“OWTS”); and

4           WHEREAS, The DEM has mandated the replacement of operational OWTS in certain  
5 areas of the Town of Westerly, Rhode Island, with denitrification OWTS; and

6           WHEREAS, These regulatory restrictions imposed upon the cities and towns of Rhode  
7 Island, and in particular the citizens and businesses of Westerly, currently present an excessive  
8 and unnecessary burden to our citizens and businesses; and

9           WHEREAS, Despite additional scientifically vetted, more cost effective denitrification  
10 OWTS that are approved by other states, there are only nine DEM approved OWTS technologies  
11 for nitrogen removal for use in Rhode Island; and

12           WHEREAS, A full investigation into the necessity, reasonableness, and effectiveness of  
13 the cost of these OWTS regulations is needed as soon as possible in order to ensure that citizens  
14 and businesses are not being required to unjustifiably expend significant funds to comply with the  
15 regulations; now, therefore be it

16           RESOLVED, That this Senate of the State of Rhode Island and Providence Plantations  
17 hereby requests that the DEM actively seek out and expedite the approval of more cost effective,  
18 reasonable approaches to the denitrification of on-site wastewater effluent; and be it further

19           RESOLVED, That the Secretary of State be and he hereby is authorized and directed to

- 1 transmit duly certified copies of this resolution to Grover Fugate, Executive Director of the
- 2 Rhode Island Coastal Resources Management Council, and Janet Coit, Director of the Rhode
- 3 Island Department of Environmental Management.

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