

DRAFT

Town Council Resolution in Support of Legislation to Establish an Ocean State Climate Adaptation and Resilience Fund (OSCAR)

WHEREAS, the impacts of climate change upon Rhode Island's built and natural environments are wide-ranging, discernible and documented, and, in many cases growing in severity and include sea level rise, coastal erosion, flooding and storm surge;

WHEREAS, as of 2016, maximum sea level rise is projected by the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) to be approximately one foot (1') in 2035, two feet (2') in 2050 and up to nine feet (9') by 2100;

WHEREAS, the production, transport and use of fossil fuels have significant impacts on the environment;

WHEREAS, the use of fossil fuels releases carbon dioxide and methane, two greenhouse gases that trap the earth's heat within the atmosphere leading to climate change impacts;

WHEREAS, climate change has and will continue to pose significant risks for state and municipal infrastructure and our environment, public health, welfare, and economic well-being;

WHEREAS, providing areas for coastal and river habitats to migrate is essential to preserving coastal and marine wildlife resources;

WHEREAS, public access to the shoreline will be threatened by sea level rise and coastal erosion;

WHEREAS, Rhode Island's coastal infrastructure is at risk and cities and towns, along with the state, must begin to plan and implement projects that adapt infrastructure on public lands to the impacts of climate change, including sea level rise, coastal erosion, flooding and storm surge;

WHEREAS, adaptation projects will reduce the vulnerability of low-lying infrastructure through measures that include removal, relocation, and redesign of infrastructure, re-grading of banks and re-vegetation, acquisition of that area of land necessary to maintain public access, and preserving or securing lateral access along the shoreline;

WHEREAS, reducing the vulnerability of our infrastructure is vital to the economic prosperity and quality of life of the citizens of the state; and,

WHEREAS, the state of Rhode Island and its cities and towns need assistance in addressing the impacts of climate change including removing and relocating vulnerable infrastructure,

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Portsmouth Town Council supports passage of the House Bill 5628 and Senate Bill 0269, Ocean State Climate Adaptation and Resilience Fund, Trust Fund legislation by the RI General Assembly.