

**TOWN OF CHARLESTOWN, RHODE ISLAND
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; and

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; and annual precipitation has increased by 2" since 1950.

WHEREAS, the production, transport and 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; and

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; and

WHEREAS, providing areas for coastal habitats to migrate inland and restoring river and stream floodplains are essential to protecting and preserving wildlife.

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

WHEREAS, Rhode Island's 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; and

WHEREAS, adaptation projects will reduce the vulnerability of low-lying infrastructure on public land through measures that include removal and relocation of infrastructure, restoration of river and stream floodplains, including regrading of banks, revegetation, acquisition of that land necessary to maintain public access, and redesigning, resizing and replacing culverts and bridge spans at existing wetland crossings.

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

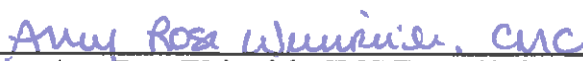
WHEREAS, the state of Rhode Island and its cities and towns need a dedicated, long-term source of funding to fund projects that reduce vulnerable infrastructure and protect or enhance coastal or riverine habitats in response to climate change impacts.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Charlestown Town Council supports passage of Senate Bill 2194 and House Bill 7165, Ocean State Climate Adaptation and Resilience Fund legislation by the RI General Assembly.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Town Clerk is hereby authorized to provide a copy of this resolution to the Town of Charlestown's representatives in the R.I. General Assembly and to all municipalities within the State of Rhode Island.

The RESOLUTION shall take effect upon passage.

By resolution of the Charlestown Town Council at a meeting held on March 9, 2020.



Amy Rose Weinreich, CMC Town Clerk

