

2023 -- H 6384

LC000721

STATE OF RHODE ISLAND

IN GENERAL ASSEMBLY

JANUARY SESSION, A.D. 2023

HOUSE RESOLUTION

CELEBRATING AND WELCOMING “OCEAN RACE”, A GLOBAL MARATHON SAILING RACE AND THE FIRST CLIMATE-POSITIVE INTERNATIONAL SPORTING EVENT TO THE STATE OF RHODE ISLAND ON MAY 11TH – MAY 21ST, 2023

Introduced By: Representatives Carson, Shekarchi, Blazejewski, Cortvriend, Abney, Chippendale, Tanzi, Shallcross Smith, Ajello, and Phillips

Date Introduced: May 09, 2023

Referred To: House read and passed

1 WHEREAS, On May 11, 2023, Rhode Island will have the honor of hosting the 2023
2 “Ocean Race” which is on a six-month journey to circumnavigate the globe, making stops in only
3 eight cities worldwide and a fly by at one additional city, with Newport being chosen for the start
4 of Leg 5 of the race; and

5 WHEREAS, The Ocean Race is one of the toughest team sports, requiring epic sailing
6 skill and coordination, while enduring extreme mental and physical challenges during an
7 extended six-month period; and

8 WHEREAS, Rhode Island’s 11th Hour Racing Team onboard Malama, is one of four
9 IMOCA high-tech boats in the race, and is being skippered by Charlie Enright of Bristol; and

10 WHEREAS, The Ocean Race has put sustainability at its heart and took action with two
11 teams collecting water samples along its route during the first edition of the Race in order to
12 analyze and develop a map of plastic in the ocean in order to help form an understanding of how
13 microplastics transfer into marine ecosystems and with the 11th Hour Racing Team taking
14 measurements of carbon dioxide (CO2), sea temperature, PH levels and salinity - key indicators
15 of climate change; and

16 WHEREAS, The Ocean plays a critically important role in climate regulation by
17 providing half of the world’s oxygen, sequestering carbon dioxide and regulating climate. It is a
18 source of food and livelihood, and provides jobs and socioeconomic support for billions of
19 people. However, many of the present economic activities and practices related to the Ocean are

1 unsustainable; and

2 WHEREAS, The Ocean Race’s innovative science program was developed in
3 collaboration with 11th Hour Racing, Premier Partner of The Ocean Race and Founding Partner
4 of the Racing with Purpose sustainability program; and

5 WHEREAS, The wellbeing of Rhode Islanders is inextricably linked with the health
6 integrity and functioning of the Ocean, including the physical systems, ecosystems, species and
7 constituting elements; and

8 WHEREAS, The inclusion and respect for diverse values, knowledge and practices,
9 including Rights of Nature, can advance equity, justice and sustainability in the blue economy
10 while preserving the health of the Ocean; and

11 WHEREAS, Rhode Islanders recognize that our natural environment is one of our most
12 valuable cultural and economic assets not just locally, but nationally and globally; with more than
13 400 miles of coastline, bringing more that 12 million annual visitors, the blue economy alone
14 generates approximately \$5 billion and 36,500 jobs; and

15 WHEREAS, Rhode Island must regularly evaluate whether its plans, laws, and programs
16 are sufficient to meet the growing environmental crisis, including climate change and biodiversity
17 loss, and must explore all means of addressing them; and

18 WHEREAS, In fifty years, national and state governments have attempted to address the
19 crisis by adopting specific environmental protection laws, such as the Clean Water Act, Clean Air
20 Act, and the National Environmental Policy Act, that limit pollution and consumption, but these
21 laws have largely proven inadequate to provide long-term protection of our right to clean air,
22 water, and soil, sustainable food systems, and the rights of natural ecosystems; and

23 WHEREAS, Over 200 laws and policies in nearly 40 countries have recognized that
24 Nature has inherent rights, and that human society has the responsibility to protect and steward
25 Nature in a manner consistent with our interconnected relationship; now, therefore be it

26 RESOLVED, That this House of Representatives of the State of Rhode Island hereby
27 welcomes The Ocean Race to Newport, our City by the Sea, and whole-heartedly supports and
28 recognizes both the rights of natural communities and ecosystems within Rhode Island to exist,
29 flourish, evolve, regenerate, recover, and be restored, and the rights of the people and
30 communities that make up Rhode Island to live in a clean and healthy environment; and be it
31 further

32 RESOLVED, That the Secretary of State be and hereby is authorized and directed to
33 transmit duly certified copies of this resolution to Charlie Enright, Skipper of the 11th Hour

1 Racing Team, and Brad Read, Executive Director of Sail Newport.

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