

2024 -- H 7228

LC003923

STATE OF RHODE ISLAND

IN GENERAL ASSEMBLY

JANUARY SESSION, A.D. 2024

HOUSE RESOLUTION

COMMENDING THE EMERGENCY AND ESSENTIAL WORKERS AND VOLUNTEERS
WHO HELPED TO KEEP RHODE ISLANDERS SAFE DURING THE EXTREME
WEATHER EVENTS OF 2023

Introduced By: Representatives Morales, Shekarchi, Blazejewski, Potter, Giraldo,
Chippendale, Ajello, Shallcross Smith, Kennedy, and Fellela

Date Introduced: January 18, 2024

Referred To: House read and passed

1 WHEREAS, The year 2023 was fraught with a panoply of devastating weather events,
2 wreaking havoc on the lives and homes of many Rhode Islanders. Myriad weather records were
3 obliterated by tornadoes, cold snaps, wildfires, a tropical storm and storm surges, not to mention
4 torrential rain and flooding; and

5 WHEREAS, February of 2023 brought days of frigid temperatures well below zero.
6 April brought wildfires and the destruction of acres of land, and June inundated the sky with
7 smoke from Canadian wildfires. June brought rain almost every weekend, causing the closure of
8 beaches almost every weekend and negatively affecting tourism, and the beginning of August
9 brought the first, but not the last, tornado to hit Rhode Island that year, uprooting trees and
10 causing major power outages; and

11 WHEREAS, Mid-August brought multiple touchdowns from a powerful EF-2 tornado,
12 the first in almost 40 years to strike RI, destroying hundreds of trees and making travel ominous.
13 Shortly after, the destruction from four separate twisters brought major destruction to northern
14 parts of the State. September rained and rained, then flooded and rained some more. This
15 continued on and off until reaching a crescendo of gusty winds and heavy downpours from
16 multiple additional storms as well as a grazing from a Category 5 storm; and

17 WHEREAS, Throughout 2023's constantly changing and often cataclysmic weather
18 disasters, firefighters often worked night and day to battle flames, and air quality alerts kept DEM
19 workers, local and State medical and healthcare personnel, and shelter workers scurrying to

1 provide care and assistance to the elderly and impaired. Utility workers and construction workers
2 toiled around-the-clock to restore electricity and heat to homes and businesses, while USPS staff
3 diligently delivered, and municipal and state staff, with the help of caring volunteers organized
4 resources and set up myriad services in order to protect the health, safety and well-being of
5 Rhode Island residents; and

6 WHEREAS, Pushing through their extreme physical discomforts and fear, and struggling
7 with exhaustion from long hours and fatigue, our State's essential workers selflessly put their
8 lives on hold and oftentimes at risk, to keep our State's critical infrastructure up and running, so
9 Rhode Islanders could get to work or stay safely at home or in a shelter, while still continuing to
10 have access to basic life necessities; now, therefore be it

11 RESOLVED, That this House of Representatives of the State of Rhode Island hereby
12 recognizes and commends the emergency and essential workers and volunteers who helped to
13 keep Rhode Islanders safe during the extreme weather events of 2023; and be it further

14 RESOLVED, That the Secretary of State be and hereby is authorized and directed to
15 transmit duly certified copies of this resolution to Director Jonathan Womer, the Rhode Island
16 Department of Administration, John E. Gage, President/CEO of the Rhode Island Health Care
17 Association, the Executive Director of the Rhode Island Manufacturers Association, President
18 Joseph Andriole, Rhode Island State Association of Fire Fighters, the Administrator of the Rhode
19 Island District Office of the U.S. Small Business Administration, Ernie Almonte, Executive
20 Director of the RI League of Cities and Towns, and Christopher Kearns, Director of the RI Office
21 of Energy Resources.

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