

2013 -- S 0893

=====
LC02242
=====

STATE OF RHODE ISLAND

IN GENERAL ASSEMBLY

JANUARY SESSION, A.D. 2013

SENATE RESOLUTION

COMMENDING THE WORK OF THE NEWPORT ENERGY AND ENVIRONMENT
COMMISSION AND THEIR SUSTAINABLE EVENTS PROTOCOL AND CAMPAIGN

Introduced By: Senators Paiva Weed, DiPalma, Felag, Walaska, and Sheehan

Date Introduced: April 30, 2013

Referred To: Recommended for Immediate Consideration

1 WHEREAS, Economists have forecast continued growth in international tourism, and
2 while this growth is advantageous to many of our cities and towns, particularly Newport where a
3 substantial portion of the city's economy is reliant on tourism, this continuous growth can place
4 great stress on the remaining biologically diverse habitats and the uniquely local lifestyle, which
5 are often used to support tourism; and

6 WHEREAS, Over the last thirty years, tourism in Newport has grown substantially. As
7 the state's principal tourist center and resort community, Newport is visited annually by
8 approximately 3.5 million tourists who attend special events, sail, and view the city's mansions
9 and other attractions; and

10 WHEREAS, The Newport Energy and Environment Commission and the Sustainable
11 Events Stakeholder Group is working diligently to find and establish methods to reduce the
12 environmental impact of tourism on the City of Newport in myriad ways and with the inclusion of
13 a variety of stakeholders and partners; and

14 WHEREAS, The mission of this group is to "Work as a community to implement
15 sustainable practices during major events held in Newport, to reduce the impact of huge numbers
16 of visitors on our sensitive coastal community, and model methods of behavior that will protect
17 our island for decades to come," and to specifically define "a five year goal to require sustainable
18 events that make Newport a desirable and exciting tourist destination, build a sustainable
19 economy, and reduce impact on our valuable island resources"; and

1 WHEREAS, The Commission is working on numerous fronts, most recently in a
2 collaborative effort with the city on ways to attach voluntary sustainable event protocols to public
3 event license applications. To this end, it worked in collaboration with the Newport St. Patrick's
4 Day Parade, the Clean City Program, and The Met School to set up recycling containers along the
5 entire parade route; and

6 WHEREAS, Through collaborative efforts and partnerships, and programs such as
7 "Reduce, Reuse, Recycle – ReNewport" and its well-defined goals, The Newport Energy And
8 Environment Commission is helping to build a sustainable economy, resulting in a higher quality
9 of life for all Newporters and guests of our City-by-the-Sea; now, therefore be it

10 RESOLVED, That this Senate of the State of Rhode Island and Providence Plantations
11 hereby commends the work of the Newport Energy and Environment Commission and its
12 sustainable events protocol and campaign; and be it further

13 RESOLVED, That the Secretary of State be and hereby is authorized and directed to
14 transmit a duly certified copy of this resolution to Lauren Carson, Campaign Organizer,
15 Clean Water Action.

=====
LC02242
=====