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To: Rhode Island Water Works Association Executive Committee
From: Carissa Richard, Providence Water *CR*
Date: November 18, 2009
Re: 2009 Session of the RI General Assembly – Final Status Report

Legislation that has PASSED:

S 0732 SUB A aa (Sosnowski, Bates, Walaska, Ciccone) and **H 5828 SUB A aa** (Ferri, Walsh, McNamara, Rice A., Handy)

An Act Relating to Waters and Navigation - The Water Use and Government Efficiency Act of 2009

- Establishes water supply management procedures, changes the composition of the Water Resources Board, modifies water supply system management plan requirements.
- RI Water Works Association and Coalition for Water Security worked together to produce compromise legislation.
- Passed into law/ effective November 2009.

S 0472 (Blais) and **H 5827** (Ehrhardt)

An Act Relating to Public Utilities and Carriers – Regulatory Powers of Administration

- Adds two months to the time prescribed for adjudicating rate filings.
- Passed into law/ effective July 2009.

S 0474 SUB A aa (DeVall, DiPalma, Sosnowski, Fogarty P., Gallo) and **H 6028 SUB A** (Malik)

An Act Relating to Public Utilities and Carriers - Underground Utility Facilities

- Makes various changes to Dig Safe law, including increasing utility marking and remarking times.
- Result of stakeholders working together to produce compromise legislation.
- Signed by Governor/ effective November 2009.

H 5983 SUB A aa (Watson, Loughlin, Savage, Ehrhardt, Newberry)

An Act Making Appropriations for the Support of the State for the Fiscal Year Ending June 30, 2010

Budget Article 5 – Relating to Governmental Organization

- Discontinuation of borrowing authority and abolishment of Water Resources Board Corporate. Duties vested with the WRBC assumed by the Clean Water Finance Agency.
- Signed by Governor/ effective July 2009.

S 0559 (Felag, DiPalma) and **H 5596** (Edwards)

An Act Relating to an Act to Incorporate the Stone Bridge Fire District and to Finance a Supply of Water for the Town of Tiverton

- Amends the Stone Bridge Fire District
- Passed into law/ effective June 2009.

Legislation that DID NOT PASS:

H 5056 SUB A aa (Gemma, Serpa, Fox, Kilmartin, Schadone) and **S 0808** (Doyle, Goodwin, Miller)

An Act Relating to Public Utilities and Carriers - Regulatory Powers of Administration

- Prevents public water suppliers from assessing hydrant/ fire protection fees to municipalities that have enacted ordinances to that effect.
- Referred to House Municipal Government/ Senate Finance.
- House bill was modified to apply only to Providence, Warwick and Pawtucket. Also modified to specify that the hydrant fees will be passed on to the ratepayers of the municipality that enacts the ordinance.
- H 5056 SUB A aa was passed by the House.
- Senate Finance heard testimony on S 0808/ H 5056 SUB A aa – held for further study.

S 0104 (Fogarty P., Connors) and **H 5111** (Pacheco, DaSilva, Carnevale, Shallcross Smith, Loughlin)

An Act Relating to Public Utilities and Carriers - Excavation Near Underground Utility Facilities - Costs

- Requires public utilities to be responsible for any costs incurred from the relocation of utility infrastructure during public works projects.
- Referred to Senate Corporations/ House Municipal Government.
- Committees heard testimony – held for further study.

H 5460 (Trillo, Carter, Gemma)

An Act Relating to Health and Safety – Fire Safety Code

- Ties fire protection systems into water distribution systems.
- Referred to House Corporations – no hearing.

S 0492 (Blais) and **H 5793** (Watson)

An Act Relating to Water and Navigation – Water Supply Facilities

- Gives voting rights to Water Resource Board members from EDC and DOA Planning.
- S 0492 referred to Senate Environment and Agriculture – no hearing.
- H 5793 referred to House Environment and Natural Resources – continued.

S 0594 (Blais) and **H 5805** (Waston)

An Act Relating to Public Records – Security of Sensitive Water System Information

- Exempts water system documents in the possession of DOH from being classified as public records.
- Supported adding language restricting access of all documents and details of a public water system where disclosure could reasonably be expected to jeopardize the health and safety of the public.
- Referred to Senate Judiciary/ House Judiciary.
- Committees heard testimony – held for further study.

H 5838 (Marcello, Pollard, Mattiello, Sullivan, Ucci)

An Act Relating to Taxation

- Proposes that land owned or used by a water supplier cannot be classified as “forest land.”
- Referred to House Finance – hearing postponed at request of sponsor.

H 6319 (Carnevale, Ucci, Petrarca, Fellela)

An Act Relating to Waters and Navigation – Public Drinking Water Supply

- Extends the deadline for public water systems serving more than five hundred people to submit certification to DOH of compliance of cross connection control plans.
- Referred to House Health, Education and Welfare – no hearing.

S 0464 (Walaska, Bates) and **H 5458** (Williamson)

An Act Relating to Business and Professions

- Establishes licensing procedures for underground utility contractors.
- Exempts any public utility (or agent thereof) regulated by the PUC.
- Referred to Senate Corporations/ House Corporations.
- Committees heard testimony – continued.

H 5202 (Rice A., Walsh, Rice M.)

An Act Relating to Taxation - Personal Income Tax

- Provides a state income tax credit to individuals that install a cistern on their property to collect rainwater.
- Referred to House Finance.
- Committee heard testimony – held for further study.

H 5047 (Corvese, Schadone)

An Act Relating to Criminal Offenses - Public Utilities

- Increases the penalties (felony) for trespassing upon the property of a utility.
- Referred to House Judiciary.
- Committee heard testimony – held for further study.

S 0310 (Blais)

An Act Relating to Public Utilities and Carriers – Kent County Water District

- Increases the compensation of Kent County Water Authority Board members from \$3,000. to \$3,500.
- Referred to Senate Housing and Municipal Government – no hearing.

S 0477 (Miller, Tassoni, Ruggerio)

An Act Relating to Public Utilities and Carriers – Public Utilities Commission

- Provides a procedure by which vacancies on the Public Utilities Commission would be filled and would create a citizens advisory council.
- Referred to Senate Corporations
- Committee heard testimony – continued.

H 5277 (Walsh, Serpa, Rice A., Ajello, Handy)

An Act Relating to General Assembly – Permanent Joint Committee on Public Utilities

- Creates a permanent joint committee to study and oversee the PUC and/or DPUC.
- Referred to House Corporations
- Committee heard testimony – held for further study.

Rhode Island Water Works Association – RIWWA c/o PO Box 8553, Cranston, RI 02920

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H 5883 (Jacquard) and **S 0871** (Lanzi, Gallo, Miller) and **S 0873** (Lanzi, Gallo, Miller)

An Act Relating to Highways – Maintenance of City and Town Highways

- Requires Providence Water to restore municipal roadways that have been altered during repairs to their infrastructure.
- Referred to House Municipal Government / Senate Housing and Municipal Government.
- Committees heard testimony – held for further study.

S 0875 SUB A (Ciccione, Blais, Pichardo, Lanzi, Tassoni) and **H 6154** (Segal)

An Act Relating to Criminal Offenses – Trespass and Vandalism

- Allows Providence Water environmental enforcement staff to issue citations for trespassing violations.
- Referred to Senate Judiciary/ House Judiciary.
- S 0875 SUB A was passed by the Senate.
- H 6154 was heard by House Judiciary – held for further study.

H 6198 (Costantino, Slater, Mattiello, Martin, Vaudreuil)

An Act Relating to Construction and Maintenance of State Roads

- Requires any person, firm or corporation (including utilities and contractors) who alters a portion of the roadway, to restore the roadway from curb to curb.
- Referred to House Finance – no hearing.