



State of Rhode Island and Providence Plantations

State House
Providence, Rhode Island 02903-1196
401-222-2080

Donald L. Carcieri
Governor

November 4, 2009

TO THE HONORABLE, THE SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES:

In accordance with the provisions of Section 14, Article IX of the Constitution of the State of Rhode Island and Section 43-1-4 of the Rhode Island General Laws, I transmit, with my disapproval, 2009 H 6226, as amended, "An Act Relating to Fish and Wildlife."

This act would create a recreational saltwater fishing license and would make it unlawful to fish in the marine waters of the State without first obtaining a license.

To be able to fish in the saltwaters of Rhode Island is a birthright. This is the Ocean State. It is a place where people have been free, up to now, to cast a line into Narragansett Bay without government intrusion. Why the proposed change? The federal government wants a "more accurate and efficient means for acquiring recreational catch and effort data." This is hardly a compelling reason or exigent circumstance warranting the imposition of any fee and licensing requirement on a Rhode Island citizen who occasionally takes his or her children fishing.

I understand that Congress frequently imposes mandates on the states. However, the Tenth Amendment also provides, "[t]he powers not delegated to the United States by the Constitution, nor prohibited by it to the States, are reserved to the States respectively, or to the people." Mandating that all persons seeking to cast a fishing line in Narragansett Bay for purposes of recreational fishing should be required to pay an annual licensing fee and register with the government is excessively intrusive.

For these reasons, I disapprove of this legislation and respectfully urge your support of this veto.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Donald L. Carcieri".

Donald L. Carcieri
Governor