

Original FRPP legislation: <https://malegislature.gov/Bills/193/S559>  
Flood Risk study commission: <https://malegislature.gov/Bills/193/H876> and  
<https://malegislature.gov/Bills/193/S557>

Support of H876 and S557 An Act to create a commission to determine the feasibility of  
voluntary acquisition of flood risk properties and structures  
Testimony of Indrani Ghosh, Ph.D. May 17, 2023

Chair Rausch, Chair Cahill and Members of the Committee,

My name is Indrani Ghosh. I am a PhD environmental and water resources engineer, and I lead the climate resiliency practice of Weston & Sampson. I am a resident of Sharon, MA.

I am here today on behalf of the American Council of Engineering Companies of Massachusetts, a business association of engineering firms.

Along with my fellow panelists, I thank you for the opportunity to testify in favor of the Flood Risk Protection Program Study Commission Bill (H876 and its companion bill S557) an Act to create a commission to determine the feasibility of voluntary acquisition of flood risk properties and structures.

This bill supports the acquisition of flood risk properties. I am here to stress that these acquisitions will not be made without ample due diligence, study and evaluation. The Commonwealth of MA has invested millions of dollars and is a national leader in climate resiliency evaluation and design projects. To this end, the State has developed numerous resources that are publicly available to all parties, public and private, to evaluate climate impacts on the built and the natural environment.

These resources have been developed by extensive collaboration between State agencies, local governments, private entities, and leading climate professionals to assess that the potential buyout of properties is well informed and feasible options have been evaluated. Some of these resources include the following:

- Climate Resilience Design Standards & Guidance championed by the Resilient Massachusetts Action Team (RMAT)  
[https://resilientma.mass.gov/rmat\\_home/designstandards/](https://resilientma.mass.gov/rmat_home/designstandards/)
- State's Climate Change Assessment 2.0 (<https://www.mass.gov/info-details/massachusetts-climate-change-assessment>) and the 2018 State Hazard Mitigation and Climate Adaptation Plan SHMCAP (<https://resilientma.mass.gov/shmcap-portal/index.html#/>)
- Municipal Vulnerability Preparedness (MVP) Program and associated MVP funded projects that have been conducted by almost all of MA communities over the last 6 years (<https://www.mass.gov/municipal-vulnerability-preparedness-mvp-program>) .
- Massachusetts Coast Flood Risk Model to better understand coastal flood risks from current and future extreme events. ([https://eea-nescaum-dataservices-assets-prd.s3.amazonaws.com/cms/GUIDELINES/MC-FRM\\_FAQ\\_04-06-22.pdf](https://eea-nescaum-dataservices-assets-prd.s3.amazonaws.com/cms/GUIDELINES/MC-FRM_FAQ_04-06-22.pdf));

- Inland flood risk models developed by the different watershed associations, such as the Charles, Neponset, and the Mystic River watershed associations.  
Charles River Flood Model: <https://www.crwa.org/watershed-model>  
Neponset River Watershed Regional Flood Project: <https://www.neponset.org/home-b-level/neponset-river-watershed-regional-flood-model-project/>  
Mystic River Stormwater Flood Resilience: <https://resilient.mysticriver.org/stormwater-flood-resilience>

These evaluations will be in accordance with the standard of care consistent with the engineering companies practicing in MA. The passage of these bills will set up the commission to evaluate the necessary information and make informed decisions regarding managed retreat and the potential buyout of properties across the State.

Thank you for giving me the opportunity to testify before you today.