STATE OF RHODE ISLAND
DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT
OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR

Response to Comments on Proposed Rules and Regulations
for Prohibited Release of Balloons
250-RICR-240-20-6

September 12, 2023

The Rhode Island Department of Environmental Management has received comments for the "Rules and Regulations for the Prohibited Release of Balloons", also known as 250-RICR-240-20-6. One individual submitted written comments during the public comment period from August 9, 2023, to September 8, 2023. The comments are included and presented below in the order of receipt, followed by DEM's response. Copies of all comments are on file and available for public review at the RI Department of Environmental Management, 235 Promenade Street, Providence, RI 02908.

1. **Email submitted by Peter Richard**

Response:

Peter Richard of West Warwick, Rhode Island submitted a written comment on August 30, 2023. The comment states that the Department should place more emphasis on enforcement of existing statutes and regulations, rather than enacting more regulations such as this one, which he suggests will burden the Department's Division of Law Enforcement, inconvenience the public, and impact the State's economy. While the Department recognizes the concerns raised in this comment, R.I. Gen Laws Chapter 23-19.18, enacted by the General Assembly in 2021, requires the Department of Environmental Management to promulgate regulations to implement the provisions of that chapter.