



Member Focused; Results Driven

March 13, 2025

OPPOSE

Representative Joseph J. Solomon, Jr.
Chairperson; House Corporations Committee
The State House
Providence, RI 02903

RE: House Bill 5551– Unit Pricing

Dear Chairperson Solomon:

My name is Scott Bromberg, and I am the President & CEO of the Rhode Island Food Dealers Association, a trade association established in 1909 to serve the needs of the food industry in the State of Rhode Island. Our membership includes chain and independent grocery retailers, wholesalers, suppliers, distributors, food manufacturers, brokers, and other organizations affiliated with the food industry in our state. As an industry, we are among the state's largest employers and revenue generators.

On behalf of our members, I would like to take this opportunity to register our group's opposition to House Bill 5551, which would not allow electronic shelving to replace stamps, labels, or tags on store shelves for disclosure and display requirements for unit pricing.

While this technology is not yet widely adopted in our industry in Rhode Island, imposing such restrictions would place an undue burden on our members. The purpose of this technology is to shift the labor from replacing stickers and tags on a regular basis to other areas of the store that require attention like keeping shelves stocked and assisting at the registers and at customer service. These shelving units can also display out of stock indicators, which are a more efficient way of keeping inventory stocked. This legislation would deter our members from investing in this technology that is available to other retailers.

While the legislation is well-intended, if passed, it would prohibit our industry from utilizing innovative technology to its fullest capabilities and reduce operating efficiencies. For these reasons, we oppose House Bill 5551.

RIFDA

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Sincerely,



Scott Bromberg
President & CEO
RI Food Dealers Association

CC: Hon. K. Joseph Shekarchi, Speaker
Rhode Island House of Representatives

Hon. Christopher R Blazejewski, Majority Leader
Rhode Island House of Representatives

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