



June 16, 2025

Honorable Joseph J. Solomon, Jr.
Chairman, House Committee on Corporations
Rhode Island State House
82 Smith Street
Providence, RI 02903

Re: Support Testimony House Resolution **H6418 Creating a Special Legislative Commission to Study and Provide Recommendations for Increasing the Use and Building the Infrastructure for Alternative Fuels**

Dear Chairperson Solomon and Honorable Members of the Committee:

On behalf of the **Rhode Island Business Leaders Alliance (RIBLA)**, we respectfully submit this testimony in **strong support** of **House Resolution H6418**, which establishes a special legislative commission to study and provide recommendations for the advancement of **alternative fuels and supporting infrastructure** in the State of Rhode Island.

Across the country, **states have long played a critical role in shaping the nation's energy and climate policy**. Within the framework of often inconsistent federal guidance, each state has charted its own path—balancing energy production, consumption, and environmental goals with economic realities. Rhode Island is no exception. Our state has demonstrated leadership in climate action and renewable energy, and this resolution represents a meaningful next step in further diversifying our energy portfolio and planning for a resilient energy future.

Alternative fuels—including but not limited to biodiesel, ethanol, hydrogen, propane, wood pellets, nuclear, geothermal, and photovoltaics—hold tremendous potential to reduce greenhouse gas emissions, lower fuel costs for consumers and businesses, enhance public health, and increase our overall energy independence.

Importantly, the **Rhode Island Business Leaders Alliance recognizes that a strong economy depends on a healthy planet—but also that economic sustainability requires pragmatic,**

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inclusive solutions. To that end, we must ensure that policies designed to promote environmental progress are also **designed to keep businesses healthy and actively engaged as partners in the solution.** We believe this commission can do just that—by bringing businesses, policymakers, scientists, and community leaders together to explore and advance practical, forward-looking energy alternatives.

The **current federal administration** has made policy changes that create opportunities in Rhode Island to embrace innovation in energy and climate investment. As a state, we must be ready to engage with and capitalize on this moment—by evaluating new technologies, assessing infrastructure needs, and planning for equitable, affordable energy solutions that work across all sectors of the economy.

Rhode Island continues to rely heavily on fossil fuels—particularly natural gas—for both heating and electricity generation. While our progress in renewable electricity development is commendable, we must go further. This commission provides an opportunity to assess where we stand, what’s feasible, and how we can position Rhode Island as a **leader in deploying emerging fuels** while ensuring the energy transition is **fiscally responsible, inclusive, and economically productive.**

We are especially encouraged that the commission will consider a wide range of fuels and technologies—including biofuels, hydrogen, propane, modern wood heating, nuclear, geothermal, and more—while also **supporting and complementing ongoing work in solar, wind, and biomass.** This comprehensive approach ensures Rhode Island remains adaptable and informed in its energy strategy – and will lead the Northeast states in this unique endeavor.

The Rhode Island Business Leaders Alliance looks forward to working in collaboration with the commission and stakeholders across the state to help advance climate solutions that both protect our environment and **enhance and grow our economy.** We are proud to support this resolution and appreciate the opportunity to contribute to this vital dialogue. Thank you for your consideration.

Respectfully,

Melissa Travis

Melissa Travis
Chairman
Rhode Island Business Leaders Alliance

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