

Testimony of Milton CAT, RI
By
Rick McCoy

House Bill 7476

Public Hearing of the House Corporations Committee
Rhode Island Legislature

March XX, 2026

Chair Solomon Jr., First Vice Chair O'Brien, Second Vice Chair Caldwell, and Members of the House Corporations Committee:

My name is Rick McCoy, I have had various Product Support roles for Milton CAT in my career. Milton CAT is the full-service Caterpillar dealer for Rhode Island. We continue to be led by the family that founded our company more than fifty years ago. We have a location in Cranston, RI as well 14 other locations in 5 other states supporting New England and upstate New York. We employ over 15 people in Rhode Island and over 1,300 companywide that help support our more than 20,000 customers. We stock over \$40 Million of parts across our dealership territory inclusive of Rhode Island. We are opposed to the passage of HB 7476.

Having a territory and customer base this size requires us to partner with our customers so we can both maximize our resources. To do this we actively support and train our customers on the Caterpillar diagnostic platform, ET and the online Service Manual platform, SIS. In addition, our customers have access to our technical help line. These platforms and services provide our customers with the information and instructions needed to test, diagnose, calibrate and repair almost any problem that should arise.

We draw the line, however, at providing access to embedded codes that control the safety and federal EPA emissions compliance on machines. The need to access these types of features occurs in less than one percent of all the repairs we perform and in a lot of instances involves direct communication with a factory rep in helping to define the necessary changes. If given access, an individual could override or incorrectly change the coding to disengage built-in safety features on machines, such as safety levers on excavators, seat sensors, overload sensors, high pressure fuel systems, etc.

Milton CAT invests millions of dollars a year in technician training and development and tooling. As well as partnering with vocational and technical high schools and colleges across our territory to help promote our industry and create a pipeline to help develop and grow qualified technicians.

While the bill before you today apply to the agricultural industry; Caterpillar equipment is used across multiple industries; Construction, Mining, Power Generation as well as Agriculture to name a few. With everything mentioned as well as a sense of responsibility and caution for the general public as well as end user well-being; Milton CAT cannot support HB 7476, nor do we feel there is a need for this legislation.

Sincerely,

Rick McCoy

Milford Earthmoving Service Manager

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