



March 9, 2026

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

[HouseCorporations@rilegislature.gov](mailto:HouseCorporations@rilegislature.gov)

OPPOSE H 7846 – Third-Party Delivery Systems

Dear Chairman Solomon and Members of the Committee:

On behalf of the Rhode Island Retail Federation, I write to respectfully oppose H 7846.

The Retail Federation represents a broad cross-section of Rhode Island’s retail economy, including national and local businesses as well as innovative e-commerce and delivery platforms such as DoorDash. While we support transparency and strong partnerships between merchants and service providers, we are concerned that H 7846 would impose overly restrictive requirements that could limit consumer access, reduce business visibility, and disrupt widely used digital marketplaces.

The bill’s provisions related to advertising and “unauthorized placement” would prohibit third-party platforms from displaying or promoting merchant information without a formal agreement. While well-intentioned, this language is overly broad and could unintentionally restrict how consumers discover local businesses online, including through search results, mapping services, and ordering platforms that many small retailers rely on for visibility and growth.

Additionally, the bill establishes significant penalties and private rights of action, creating legal exposure and uncertainty for platforms and partners operating in good faith. These provisions may discourage innovation and investment in Rhode Island’s digital commerce ecosystem at a time when retailers increasingly depend on online ordering and delivery to remain competitive.

We are also concerned about the section prohibiting third-party restaurant reservation services, which represents a sweeping restriction on widely used consumer tools and could reduce flexibility for both businesses and customers.

Importantly, companies like DoorDash work collaboratively with merchants across Rhode Island to expand reach, increase sales, and provide consumers with convenient access to local

businesses. Policies that limit these partnerships risk unintended consequences for both retailers and the customers they serve.

For these reasons, the Rhode Island Retail Federation respectfully urges the Committee to oppose H 7846.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Laurie White". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial "L" and a long, sweeping underline.

Laurie White  
President  
Rhode Island Retail Federation