

 Rhode Island Department of Revenue
Division of Taxation

Via Electronic Mail

May 5, 2026

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

RE: Letter of Support Regarding House Bill 7613 Substitute A – An Act Relating to Taxation – Tax Preparers Act of 2013

Dear Chair Solomon:

I am writing on behalf of the Rhode Island Department of Revenue, Division of Taxation (“Division”), to: i) express support for proposed House Bill 7613 Substitute A; ii) explain the background and current statutory context for this bill; and iii) request your support for this bill.

As you know, this bill amends Chapter 44-68 of the Rhode Island General Laws (Tax Preparers Act of 2013) to provide for the authority to assess penalties for tax preparers that purposefully misled or committed fraud against their clients, or acted as ghost preparers of tax returns (a tax return preparer who did not self-identify or comply with IRS statutory and regulatory mandates, but was compensated or benefited from the preparation of returns), or purposefully circumvented the tax laws administered by the Tax Administrator. The bill also allows the Tax Administrator to publish on a periodic basis a list of tax return preparers whose filing privileges have been suspended or revoked. The bill is set to take effect upon passage.

On March 3, 2026, the Division sent a letter to the Committee detailing its reasons for supporting House Bill 7613. Therefore, those reasons will not be repeated here.

House Bill 7613 Substitute A amends the proposed language in R.I. Gen. Laws § 44-68-3(c) so that it now reads: “A tax return preparer shall not be a ghost preparer or engage in any activity **with the intent to facilitate** the use of a ghost preparer.” (Emphasis added). The Division supports this change as it furthers the goal of the original bill. The Division discussed the proposed amendment with the American Civil Liberties Union (ACLU) and understands that the revised language addresses the ACLU’s concerns with the original bill. Further, the American Coalition for Taxpayer Rights (ACTR), which is the national trade association for retail tax preparers and tax preparation software companies in the United States, submitted a letter of strong support on May 5, 2026.

For the reasons above, and to aid in tax compliance and administration, the Division supports House Bill 7613 Substitute A and believes it will protect Rhode Island taxpayers and be a net benefit for the State and its taxpayers, while not having a negative fiscal impact on the State.

I look forward to working with you and appreciate your consideration.

Very truly yours,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Nsavage", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Neena S. Savage
Tax Administrator

cc: The Honorable Members of the House Committee on Corporations (via:
HouseCorporations@rilegislature.gov)
The Honorable Alex Marszalkowski (via: rep-marszalkowski@rilegislature.gov)
Nicole McCarty, Esquire, Chief Legal Counsel to the Speaker of the House
Lynne Urbani, Director of House Policy
Jane E. Cole, Interim Director, Department of Revenue