

Testimony in support of H5424: RI Climate Superfund Act; Date of Hearing: Feb. 27, 2025

Barbara Walsh, 62 Frederick Street, Warwick, RI 02888

To Chair Bennett and the honorable Members of the House Environment and Natural

Resources Committee:

This bill is about fairness... who pays for what in our society? Cigarette manufacturers poisoned those using their products for which society paid for cancer research and treatment plus a multitude of resultant health needs, but they were finally held accountable by paying a proportion of these costs. Lead paint manufacturers were finally held accountable for adding lead to paint, poisoning people simply living in structures with that paint on their walls. Taxpayers should not bear the burden of paying all the damages caused by fossil fuel companies ... they simply shouldn't. The companies causing environmental and health disasters should pay the costs that ensue. This bill confronts the powerful in a sensible and fair way and I hope you will support its passage.

Barbara Walsh
62 Frederick Street
Warwick, RI 02888