

Support of HB 5424 The Rhode Island Climate Superfund Act

With a federal government that is openly hostile to the environment, it's more important than ever for states to step up to the challenge. But to do this without federal funding, we will need to be creative in generating our own sources of revenue.

HB 5424 is a shining example of this creativity.

The beauty of the bill is its clear logic—if you caused the problem, you should pay to solve it.

In this case, the scientific evidence is clear that greenhouse gas emissions caused by the burning of fossil fuels has caused global warming which, in turn, has caused a rapid escalation of environmental disasters. These disasters cause countless personal hardships and cost billions to clean up. So who pays for this mayhem? Right now the answer is taxpayers—the same people who suffer from the destruction caused by our continued reliance on fossil fuels.

This bill will shift the financial burden from the victims to the perpetrators.

Fossil fuel companies have long known about the carnage caused by their products, yet in their desire to maximize profits, they have resisted the transition to clean energy while spending millions to spread disinformation to obscure their roll in climate change.

It's time to create a financial incentive for them to change while also creating a financial mechanism for repairing the damage they have done.

Bill Ibelle
Providence, RI