

Rep. David Bennett, Chair  
House Environment and Natural Resources Committee  
RI House of Representatives

## **SUPPORT FOR H5424 RI Climate Superfund Act of 2025**

February 27, 2025

Dear Chair Bennett and Members of the Committee,

Our world is in the grips of a climate disaster! This catastrophe began years ago with the burning of fossil fuels which has added tons of global warming green house gases to our atmosphere. Global warming has led to sea level rise, increased ocean temperatures, and increasing ocean acidification. Our state has also endured extreme weather including flooding, heat waves, and high wind events.

I personally have had a flooded basement, numerous power interruptions, and lots of wind damage. I am sure almost all Rhode Islanders have been affected by one or more of these disasters over the past several years. It is now time to hold the fossil fuel companies accountable for causing this problem. The science is clear that the fossil fuel companies' products are to blame. These companies know they are at fault, but have chosen to ignore their own research. Instead, they have opted to put profits before the well being of our state and our planet and will continue on this greedy quest until total planetary breakdown or until the grownups in the room tell them to stop!

The Climate Superfund Act is a great way to send this message to the fossil fuel companies, that if they insist on contributing to our climate disasters, they need to pay for the resulting damages. When these companies see how much they will be assessed for past actions, hopefully they will slow down production and transition to renewable energy sources!

Please pass the RI Climate Superfund Act out of committee and push for its passage in the full House. Thank you for reading my testimony.

Sincerely,  
Joel Gates  
Glocester, RI