

## Lou Mansolillo

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**From:** Justin Boyan <justin@climateactionri.org>  
**Sent:** Thursday, February 27, 2025 4:45 PM  
**To:** House Environment and Natural Resources Committee  
**Subject:** In support of HB5424: RI Climate Superfund Act of 2025

Dear Chair Bennett and Members of the House Environment and Natural Resources Committee:

My name is Justin Boyan, co-founder and former President of Climate Action Rhode Island. On behalf of our 3500 members, I urge you to make HB 5424, The Climate Superfund Act, a top priority this session.

Rhode Islanders are already paying the price for climate change. Towns are spending millions to fight chronic flooding, cool overheated schools, reinforce infrastructure, put out wildfires (37 last October!), and recover from extreme weather disasters. These costs—direct results of burning fossil fuels—are falling on taxpayers, while fossil fuel companies, despite knowing for decades with shocking precision what harms their products would cause, continue to profit.

The Climate Superfund Act corrects this injustice. It holds the biggest polluters accountable, requiring them to pay their fair share for the damage they caused. The state will assess Rhode Island's climate-related costs since 2009 and recover those funds from fossil fuel corporations in proportion to their emissions. Only the largest—those responsible for over a billion tons of emissions—will be liable.

At a time of severe budget challenges, this fiscally responsible bill relieves Rhode Islanders of climate adaptation costs without raising taxes or energy prices. New York and Vermont have already enacted similar laws, and at least six other states are advancing their own. Rhode Island should be next.

Stand with Rhode Islanders, not fossil fuel companies. Pass the Climate Superfund Act and make polluters clean up their own mess.

Justin Boyan  
Providence, RI