

February 27, 2025

Representative David A. Bennett  
Chair, House Environment and Natural Resources Committee  
Rhode Island State House  
Providence, RI 02908

**Re: The Nature Conservancy Supports H 5424, Rhode Island Climate Superfund Act of 2025**

The Nature Conservancy supports House Bill 5424, which would establish the Rhode Island Climate Superfund. We thank Representatives Boylan, Carson, McGaw, Cortvriend, Spears, Handy, Potter, Speakman, Kislak, and Tanzi for sponsoring it.

The Nature Conservancy is a global organization dedicated to conserving the lands and waters on which all life depends. Here in Rhode Island, The Nature Conservancy protects more than 14,000 acres of land and has partnered on the permanent conservation of more than 35,000 acres. At The Nature Conservancy, we realize that we cannot succeed in our core mission without seriously addressing climate change.

The climate crisis is real and urgent. Rhode Island has already been seeing the impacts of climate change. The 2024 State of Resilience Report from RIDEM identified sea level rise, storm frequency and intensity, precipitation and inland flooding, warming air and water temperatures, and changing biodiversity among the top threats. These impacts are environmentally destructive and costly for the state to address and restore to ensure safety for Rhode Islanders.

Through The Nature Conservancy's work with the Municipal Resilience Program, we have seen first-hand the needs of our cities and towns when it comes to climate resilience. We have worked with almost every Rhode Island municipality and identified hundreds of specific resilience actions that communities need.

This bill would establish a fund that requires large polluters to pay for the environmental impact their operations have on the state. For years, Rhode Island has needed a dedicated and sustainable funding source for critical climate work that is not on the backs of Rhode Islanders who feel the impacts of climate change most. We support this legislation and request its passage.

Sincerely,



Angela Tuoni  
Climate Programs Manager, Rhode Island  
The Nature Conservancy