

**Testimony in support of House Bill 5166, House Committee on environment and natural resources, March 12, 2025, by Peter Trafton, Providence Rhode Island**

Dear Chair Bennett and Honorable Members of the House Committee on Environment and Natural Resources,

I write with the strongest possible support for the HIGH HEAT WASTE FACILITY ACT - H5166 sponsored by Representative McGaw and colleagues.

You and your committee must be pretty familiar with the petrochemical and plastic manufacturers' annual efforts to persuade Rhode Island to accept their entreaties and let them threaten the health of Rhode Islanders.

Not long ago, with the help of a few senators, a Senate Bill was actually passed to support this. Evidence soon appeared that such a facility would be developed in or near the Port of Providence. The House of Representatives blocked this maneuver, for which Rhode Island's environmental community is most grateful.

So much money is being spent upon efforts to promote, under various names and various pseudoscientific means of converting waste plastic into something useful. Sadly, many folks are being persuaded that plastic can be recycled and re-used. None of these "processes" have proven to be successful. It would be wasteful, foolish, and unhealthy for us to join the crowd of states who have been bought into allowing and supporting the dreams of plastics manufacturers.

**I must call your attention to this year's Senate Bill 652 which has been recently introduced to create advanced recycling facilities in Rhode Island.** Yes, they are back, again!

**Please support H5166, by Representative McGaw and her colleagues.** Help us keep Rhode Island free from wasteful pursuit of plastic "recycling".

Thank you for considering my comments.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "PTrafton". The letters are cursive and somewhat stylized, with the "P" and "T" being particularly prominent.

Peter Trafton