

Pro H7422—The RI Clean Air Preservation Act, 2026

I am writing in support of H7422—The RI Clean Air Preservation Act, 2026. I have provided testimony in support of the many versions of this Act that have been considered by the RI General Assembly over the past years. This is an Act that Rhode Islanders deserve, and it needs to be passed this year. All Rhode Islanders have a right to pollution-free air. Creating pollution in an attempt to alleviate a climate crisis is a reckless, rather than a reasonable climate solution.

Rhode Island's current policy allows for weather modification—this needs to be corrected, and will be by this bill.

The main purpose of this year's Clean Air Preservation Act is to address weather modification policy. Rhode Islanders never voted for or gave consent to federal weather control experiments. Atmospheric experimentation is a harmful use of technology and therefore must be banned in order to protect people and nature.

Having said this, I would also like to point out that there are some significant differences between the House version of this bill and the Senate version. The Senate bill is stronger in that it includes information about risks from radiation pollution emitted during Solar Radiation Modification (SRM):

As established in this chapter, scientific dimensions of SRM include the use of⁹ interoperable ground-based, airborne, and space-based facilities involving the release of pollutants,¹⁰ including radiation. There are ever-increasing numbers of pollution-generating, microwave-¹¹ irradiating instruments used in weather experimentation including, but not limited to, ground-based¹² facilities interoperable with drones and satellites. Such infrastructures and the electrical grid are¹³ vulnerable to radiation pollution interference, EMP [Electromagnetic Pulse] events and cyber-attacks, potentially leading to¹⁴ accidents, fatalities, damage to critical infrastructures, possible collapse of commerce systems and¹⁵ the failure of essential public utilities, costing the state billions of dollars. Therefore, irradiating¹⁶ infrastructure shall be subject to evaluation by an independent licensed radiofrequency (RF)¹⁷ engineer paid for by the facility owner.

The other drawback of the House bill as currently written is that the penalty amount of merely \$5,000 is so low as to encourage unscrupulous entities to violate the law.

I hope that when the House version and the Senate version both pass out of their committees and the full House and Senate, these weaknesses in the House version will be corrected.

Thank you in advance for your efforts to ensure that Rhode Islanders are protected from reckless and damaging weather modification experimentation.

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