

Testimony in support of H7004: Rhode Island Climate Superfund Act of 2026

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

Any effort to begin the lengthy process to hold petroleum companies responsible for the climate, environmental and health damage caused by their products should begin as soon as possible. Not only is it unfair, but it is also inadequate that citizens bear the burden of paying the cost to remedy the damage caused by such companies. There will never be enough money available to address the consequences of the use of these products. Given these companies knew the damages which would occur with use of their products decades ago, if government doesn't try to recoup money now when might efforts actually begin? Similar governmental action with lead paint and tobacco companies were undertaken and they were quite effective. Though time consuming and complicated, such legal action should be attempted. So why wait?