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**From:** Justin Boyan <jboyan@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, March 25, 2026 1:56 PM  
**To:** House Environment and Natural Resources Committee  
**Cc:** Jennifer Boylan; Rep. Knight, Jason  
**Subject:** In support of H. 7004: RI Climate Superfund Act of 2026

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

My name is Justin Boyan, co-founder and current Vice-President of Climate Action Rhode Island. On behalf of our 4,300 members, I urge you to prioritize the Climate Superfund Act 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, and recover from extreme weather disasters. These costs—the direct, predictable, and scientifically attributable results of burning fossil fuels—are falling on taxpayers, while fossil fuel companies, despite knowing for decades 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 eight other states are advancing their own. **Rhode Island should be next.**

The idea of recovering climate cleanup fees from polluters, rather than from taxpayers, is extremely popular. Yet two objections have been raised to this bill, which I would like to address.

1. **Affordability:** will the assessments simply be passed down to Rhode Islanders, increasing the price we pay for gas? This objection ignores the reality of commodity markets. An individual fossil fuel corporation cannot unilaterally inflate its local prices to recoup a state penalty without immediately being undercut and losing its market share to competitors. On the contrary, it is our state's ever-growing climate cleanup expenses which will be unaffordable unless you pass this bill.
2. **Legal battle:** will this law bog us down in a costly legal battle against Big Oil? Attorney General Neronha has told me such fears are unfounded; his office is fully equipped to defend this legislation, and would be able to leverage the extensive legal groundwork already developed by their counterparts in New York and Vermont.

I urge you to stand with Rhode Islanders, not fossil fuel companies. Pass the Climate Superfund Act and protect our taxpayers from the cleanup expenses that the worst polluters knowingly caused.

Justin Boyan  
Providence, RI