



Citizens' Climate Lobby

Rhode Island

March 24, 2026

David A. Bennett
Chairman, House Committee on Environment and Natural Resources
Rhode Island General Assembly, Rhode Island State House
82 Smith Street
Providence, RI 02903

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

The Rhode Island Chapter of Citizens' Climate Lobby strongly **supports H7004, Rhode Island Climate Superfund Act of 2026**. Our chapter's volunteers are part of a national nonpartisan network advocating for effective climate policy, specifically putting a price on carbon pollution at the source, for instance, at the site of fossil fuel extraction, production, and processing. Had carbon pricing become federal law 20 years ago and not continually blocked by fossil fuel lobbyists, we might have been spared some of the worst impacts of a climate that is now destabilized. In a 2019 USGS report, Rhode Island was singled out as the fastest warming state of the lower 48 states, and had already passed the U.N. threshold of 2 degrees Celsius (almost four degrees Fahrenheit); the rising temperatures of Narragansett Bay has affected our fisheries.

RI residents and taxpayers are facing increasing sea level rise, more extreme weather, more inland flooding, warmer and more humid summers, and poorer air quality. Insurance policy rates for homeowners will continue to rise and so will energy bills, as there is more demand during extreme weather. State, county and local infrastructure will need to be adapted, relocated and remodeled to become resilient. This will cost billions and there is no longer a guarantee the federal government will offer any assistance. So we must turn to the polluter pay principle – that the source/origin of the carbon pollution, which has caused the climate impacts, should be the source of amelioration of the social ills it has caused.

Climate change and its impacts are not going away; they are only getting worse. Now is the time for our state legislators to create a climate superfund so that we can begin to take charge of our future, so we won't be left drowning in place, like so many of the saltmarshes that ring the Ocean State.

We are grateful to the legislators who introduced and cosponsored H7004, and we urge you to bring this very important bill to the floor for a vote.

Thank you,

MJ Sorrentino,

Co-founder, Citizens' Climate Lobby Rhode Island