

Trafton Testimony Supporting H 7004, House Environment Committee March 25, 2026

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

I'm Peter Trafton from Providence Rhode Island. I am writing with strong support for Rhode Island Climate Superfund Act of 2026 by rep Boylan and colleagues (H 7004)

The concept of requiring corporations to take financial responsibility for the damages they have done to the environment has been present and accepted for decades in the United States. The very name Superfund and the nationwide sites where corporate responsibility has been successfully required are common knowledge. They have aided Rhode Island substantially in correcting our local industrial messes.

Attribution science now provides the means of identifying and apportioning greenhouse gas impacts from fossil fuel producing corporations. Climate Superfund laws now exist in Vermont and New York. Yes indeed, they are being litigated by the corporations and supported by stalwart attorneys in support of these laws. The fact that litigation exists is no reason to delay creating Rhode Island's own Superfund law. It should be seen as a necessary part of confirming our national need.

Additionally, as the various impacts of global warming arrive in the ocean state, we will need significant financial help to "clean up the corporate messes".

The Rhode Island Climate Superfund Act is important for Rhode Island's future. We should not delay in passing and implementing it. That action should begin here in your committee. Please pass the Superfund Act H 7004 and start the process.

Thanks very much for considering my comments.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "PTrafton". The letters are cursive and somewhat stylized.

Peter Trafton