

Chris O'Brien

From: Angela lehmann <Angela.lehmann@Hilton.com>
Sent: Tuesday, May 6, 2025 2:19 PM
To: House Finance Committee
Cc: chamber@provchamber.com
Subject: OPPOSE H 5473

Dear Chairman Abney and Members of the House Finance Committee,

I am writing to express my strong opposition to H 5473, which proposes increasing Rhode Island's personal income tax rates. As someone who files jointly and falls into the higher income bracket targeted by this bill, I would be directly and unfairly affected.

My income supports my family, and like many others, I've worked hard to achieve financial stability through years of dedication, sacrifice, and planning. This proposal feels like a penalty for being successful. It sends the wrong message: that those who work hard, advance in their careers, and provide for their families should be punished through higher taxation. I should not be penalized for striving to create a better life for my loved ones.

The consequences of this bill go beyond individuals like me. Non-profits that rely on charitable contributions, working families struggling to keep up with inflation, and professionals weighing where to build their futures will all feel the impact of an economy strained by over-taxation. These kinds of tax hikes create disincentives for people to stay, invest, or grow in Rhode Island.

When comparing our state to neighbors in the region, it becomes even more clear how out of step this proposal is:

- **Massachusetts** has a flat income tax rate of **5%**, even after introducing a surcharge on income over \$1 million.
- **Connecticut** has a top marginal rate of **6.99%**, but its bracket structure provides more room for middle and upper-middle earners to breathe.
- Under H 5473, Rhode Island's top rate would rise to **8.99%**, making it one of the highest in the region and putting us at a serious disadvantage when competing for talent and investment.

If Rhode Island wants to retain its high-income earners, attract new residents, and remain economically competitive, we must not punish success. Instead, we need a tax structure that rewards hard work and encourages people to invest in their communities, not flee them.

I urge you to oppose H 5473 and support policies that foster growth, opportunity, and a fair tax environment for all Rhode Islanders.

Sincerely,

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Director of Sales



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