



Ben S  
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Representative Marvin Abney, Chair  
RI House Finance Committee

Dear Chairman Abney and esteemed members of the House Finance Committee,

I am writing in support of House Bill 5473, also known as the "Revenue for Rhode Island" bill, sponsored by Representative Karen Alzate.

I'd like to have a system where everyone is taxed fairly. I understand the political / rallying purpose of the phrase "tax the rich" but really, I just want everyone to pay taxes in proportion to their income so that wealth is more evenly distributed; so that resources are available to all. A reasonable income tax increase on our top 1% of income-earners will benefit everyone, including said earners, whose own long term wealth and prosperity depends on us having things like roads, bridges, and parks. Right now, with cuts to the NEA, NEH, and other organizations, our positions as The Creative Capital (in Providence), and as a major tourism hub on the state level, are being put at serious risk. This bill simply asks a limited number of Rhode Islanders to step it up a bit so we can collectively ensure Rhode Island keeps on being all the awesome things Rhode Island is known for.

Respectfully,  
Ben S