



Errol Danehy  
10 Merrick St  
Rumford, RI 02916

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'm sure RI's esteemed lawmakers know, but the US used to tax the wealthy very heavily, and until JFK requested Congress lower that tax rate, it paid enormous dividends to the country. We had infrastructure investment at levels unheard of in history. We had a booming middle class. Despite wars and civil rights struggles, the 20th century was the century of the American Dream, and it was because we taxed the rich.

Rhode Island has the chance to bring back some of that prosperity, by taxing the wealthiest among us. Opponents may argue that the rich will flee RI to avoid this tax, but when MA imposed a similar policy, a recent study showed that the revenue actually exceeded expectations, and the population of top earners increased. (Source: [masslive.com](http://masslive.com))

So I implore RI's lawmakers: pass this crucial legislation. The working families cannot afford to pay one more dime, but the money is desperately needed. Take the money from where it is: the richest among us.

Respectfully,  
Errol Danehy