

**Chris O'Brien**

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**From:** Justin Ward <Justin.Ward@baldwin.com>  
**Sent:** Monday, May 5, 2025 7:48 PM  
**To:** House Finance Committee  
**Subject:** Oppose H 5473

May 6, 2025

The Honorable Marvin Abney  
[HouseFinance@rilegislature.gov](mailto:HouseFinance@rilegislature.gov)  
Chairman, House Finance Committee  
Rhode Island State House – Room 35  
Providence, Rhode Island 02903

OPPOSE H 5473

Dear Chairman Abney and Members of the House Finance Committee,

I am writing today express my strong opposition to H 5473, which seeks to increase personal income tax rates. Higher taxes will hurt everyone – from small businesses to the non-profits that rely on philanthropy to the single mother who can't find a well-paying job.

The proposed increase in H 5473 is aimed directly at small “mom and pop” businesses that pay taxes as a pass-through entity. Higher taxes will only serve to burden successful small businesses, making it harder to create jobs and contribute to the local economy.

It's measures like this that contribute to Rhode Island's reputation of being unfriendly to businesses. I moved from Maine to Rhode Island because I love it here. So many of my local friends were telling me I was making a mistake because this state would not be supportive of my business aspirations. I did it anyway.

Increasing taxes will make Rhode Island even less competitive compared to other states.

Local companies are compelled to evaluate location choices in this volatile economy. Higher taxes will certainly influence in their decision-making process in a way that will negatively impact the state.

If Rhode Island becomes even less tax-friendly, businesses may choose to locate or relocate to states with more favorable tax policies, taking jobs and revenue with them.

In order to promote economic growth and prosperity in Rhode Island, it is crucial that we maintain a business-friendly environment. I urge you to oppose H 5473 and work towards policies that businesses and encourage investment in our state.

Sincerely,

Justin Ward

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