



May 21, 2025

Representative Marvin L. Albany
Chair, House Committee on Finance
State of Rhode Island
82 Smith Street
Providence, RI 02903

Dear Chairman Abney:

My name is Hank Abate, and I represent Oak View Group, the firm that manages the Rhode Island Convention Center and the Amica Mutual Pavilion. I am writing in reference to proposed House Bill H 6334.

We understand the importance of generating revenue for the state; however, imposing this tax on ticket sales will ultimately hinder the local economy. As we strive to bring in big-name acts and events that not only entertain but also stimulate the local economy, an additional financial burden on ticket sales could lead to fewer events being hosted in our venues.

The ripple effect of this tax could be significant. Fewer events mean less foot traffic for local businesses, including hotels, restaurants, and shops that rely on concert-goers and event attendees. This could lead to reduced revenue for these establishments, which could, in turn, affect their ability to hire and maintain staff.

Moreover, the Rhode Island Convention Center and Amica Mutual Pavilion have been pivotal in hosting various events that enhance the cultural landscape of the City of Providence and the State of Rhode Island. By discouraging promoters from choosing our venues, we risk losing this vital aspect of the community.

We urge you to consider the long-term implications of this bill and its potential to stifle growth and opportunity in our local economy. We believe that instead of implementing a ticket tax, there are alternative solutions that can generate revenue without putting additional strain on our facilities and the surrounding community.

Thank you for your attention to this matter. We hope to work together to find a solution that supports both the needs of the state and the growth of our local economy.

Sincerely,

Hank Abate

Hank Abate
President
Northeast Region