



Member Focused; Results Driven

May 29, 2025

OPPOSE

Representative Marvin L. Abney
Chairperson; House Finance Committee
The State House
Providence, RI 02903

RE: House Bill 6365 – Retail Delivery Fee

Dear Chairperson Abney:

My name is Scott Bromberg, and I am the President & CEO of the Rhode Island Food Dealers Association, a trade association established in 1909 to serve the needs of the food industry in the State of Rhode Island. Our membership includes chain and independent grocery retailers, wholesalers, suppliers, distributors, food manufacturers, brokers, and other organizations affiliated with the food industry in our state. As an industry, we are among the state's largest employers and revenue generators.

On behalf of our members, I would like to take this opportunity to register our group's opposition to House Bill 6365, which would impose a 50-cent delivery fee on retailers for certain orders delivered in the State of Rhode Island.

Rhode Islanders have been dealing with increasing inflation for the past several years. Imposing this delivery fee or tax makes the cost of living in Rhode Island even higher. Like most add-on fees, this delivery tax will only increase consumer pricing and drive down sales for businesses operating in our state. Even with the exemptions listed in the bill, this will harm local businesses as they are not able to absorb costs as readily as their larger national competitors and will be forced to place the burden on the consumer. Elderly individuals, people with disabilities, and others with mobility limitations that make in-store shopping difficult would be most impacted by this tax, as they may rely more heavily on delivery services.

Our association does not believe that now is the time to impose new taxes on Rhode Island shoppers. For the reasons listed, we oppose House Bill 6365. Thank you for taking the time to consider our position.

RIFDA

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Sincerely,



Scott Bromberg
President & CEO
RI Food Dealers Association

CC: Hon. K. Joseph Shekarchi, Speaker
Rhode Island House of Representatives

Hon. Christopher R Blazejewski, Majority Leader
Rhode Island House of Representatives

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