



April 21, 2026

The Honorable Marvin Abney, Chair
House Finance Committee
Rhode Island General Assembly
82 Smith Street
Providence, RI 02903

HouseFinance@rilegislature.gov

OPPOSE H.7467

Dear Chairman Abney and Members of the Committee:

On behalf of the Greater Providence Chamber of Commerce, I write to express our opposition to H.7467, which proposes changes to the distribution of the state's hotel tax.

Tourism is one of Rhode Island's most important economic drivers, supporting thousands of jobs and generating significant economic activity across our state. A key component of that success is the coordinated marketing and destination development work carried out by the Providence Warwick Convention & Visitors Bureau (PWCVB), which serves as a critical engine for attracting visitors, conventions, and business travel to the Greater Providence region.

H.7467 would eliminate the requirement that a portion of hotel tax revenue be directed to the PWCVB and instead redirect those funds to the Rhode Island Commerce Corporation. While we understand the intention of this bill, this change would come at the expense of a proven, high-performing organization that is specifically focused on tourism promotion and convention attraction.

The PWCVB plays a unique and indispensable role in Rhode Island's economy. Its efforts directly drive hotel occupancy, restaurant activity, retail spending, and cultural tourism. Weakening its funding structure risks undermining years of progress in building Providence and Rhode Island as a competitive destination for meetings, events, and leisure travel.

Equally important, tourism promotion is most effective when it is locally driven and regionally tailored. The PWCVB's ability to market the Greater Providence area with precision and

expertise cannot be easily replicated through a centralized approach. Maintaining dedicated, reliable funding for this work is essential to sustaining and growing the state's visitor economy.

At a time when Rhode Island is working to expand its economic footprint and compete with peer regions, we should be strengthening—not diminishing—the tools that have demonstrated measurable success. The PWCVB is one of those tools, and its continued effectiveness depends on stable funding.

For these reasons, the Greater Providence Chamber of Commerce respectfully urges the Committee to oppose H.7467.

Thank you for your consideration of our comments. We would welcome the opportunity to discuss this issue further.

Sincerely,



Laurie White
President
Greater Providence Chamber of Commerce