



April 14, 2026

The Honorable Marvin L. Abney, Chairman
House Finance Committee
State House
Providence, RI 02903

Re: H.8179, An Act Relating to State Affairs and Government – 2021 Act on Climate

Dear Chairman Abney,

The undersigned members of the Rhode Island Business Coalition wish to register our opposition to H.8179 which would increase the fee on each barrel of petroleum products or crude oil from five cents to ten cents.

This bill proposes adding the support of projects and initiatives to reduce emissions and meet the act on climate goals to the purposes for which the funds can be used. The business community supports initiatives to address the effects of climate change, however we do not support increasing a fee already in place for a particular purpose is how this should be accomplished.

While the oil spill prevention and response fund has a stated purpose, we believe it is important to note that funds have been scooped in previous fiscal years and deposited into the general fund. As businesses struggling with high energy costs, we are concerned that this legislation will not only add to that cost, but also be redirected to address general budget needs and not go to its stated purpose.

For these reasons, we ask that you not take action on H.8179.

Sincerely,

David Chenevert, Chairman, Rhode Island Business Coalition
East Greenwich Chamber of Commerce
Greater Newport Chamber of Commerce
National Federation of Independent Business

The Rhode Island Business Coalition represents 50 industries and 6,280 businesses that employ 231,200 people throughout Rhode Island.

Northern Rhode Island Chamber of Commerce

Rhode Island Small Business Economic Summit Regulations Subcommittee

Rhode Island Small Business Economic Summit Tax and Budget Committee

Rhode Island Staffing Association

cc. House Finance Committee members