



March 26, 2026

The Honorable Carol Hagan McEntee, Chairwoman
House Judiciary Committee
State House
Providence, RI 02903

Re. H.8052, An Act Relating to Courts and Civil Procedure – Procedure Generally – Causes of Action

Dear Chairwoman McEntee:

The undersigned members of the Rhode Island Business Coalition are in opposition to House bill 8052, An Act Relating to Courts and Civil Procedure – Procedure Generally – Causes of Action. This bill creates "strict liability" for developers of certain artificial intelligence (AI) models for actual harm to non-users.

It is important to note that many real-world products contain multiple AI models and applications, developed by different research and engineering teams, each using multiple datasets from multiple sources, and deployed by a party with direct interface with the user, sometimes with multiple possible use cases.

The original developer of an AI model has little to no visibility or control over how it is being used by a deployer, and may not have any interactions with users. Even in cases where an application is provided by the developer directly to the deployer, and no modifications are made, deployers will often be best placed to understand downstream use cases and their attendant risks, implement effective risk management strategies, and conduct post-market monitoring and logging, which developers of general-purpose AI models are not equipped to do. The fundamental principle is that the party that has control over a specific step in the development lifecycle of an AI model should bear the responsibility for that specific step.

Businesses across our state incorporate AI into their workflows to improve their efficiency and productivity. A technology start-up by two Brown University students utilizing AI to improve medical billing practices shows the economic development opportunities presented by AI. We believe this and other start-ups show the innovation that is possible utilizing AI.

We recognize regulation of AI is needed, however it is important that it be done in a thoughtful way to not inadvertently stifle innovation. It is important that Rhode Island not lose access to the most advanced AI models that will power new scientific discoveries in health, education, and sustainability.

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

Sincerely,

David Chenevert, Chairman, Rhode Island Business Coalition

East Greenwich Chamber of Commerce

Greater Newport Chamber of Commerce

Northern Rhode Island Chamber of Commerce

Propane Gas Association of New England

Rhode Island Bankers Association

Rhode Island Small Business Economic Summit Regulations Subcommittee

Rhode Island Small Business Summit Tax and Budget Committee

Rhode Island Staffing Association

cc. House Judiciary Committee members