

February 5, 2026

Hon. Arthur J. Corvese, Chair
House Labor Committee
The State House
Providence, RI 02903

RE: Opposition to House Bill 7290

Chair Corvese and members of the committee,

I am writing to respectfully express my opposition to House Bill 7290, the Restrictions on Self-Service Checkout Stations Act. I am the owner/operator of Brigido's Fresh Market with three Rhode Island locations in Slaterville, Pascoag and North Smithfield.

The grocery business is very competitive and runs on tight margins. The decisions we make on how we use our staff vary from day to day and shouldn't be limited by this type of legislation. Small local businesses need flexibility to compete in this industry, which allows us to support our workforce and serve our communities. The grocery business faces a lot of competition from all types of non-traditional stores that offer grocery items. We would be at a significant disadvantage from the big box retailers that are not included in this bill.

While my stores do not utilize self-checkout, the option to use this technology is a business decision that should remain with individual stores and not regulated by the state. This bill would allow legislation to dictate how, when, and where stores can deploy their staff. It will reduce flexibility, limit technological innovation, and ultimately make it harder for businesses to operate in Rhode Island.

For these reasons, I respectfully urge the committee to oppose House Bill 7290.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Best Regards,

Michael Fernandez
Brigido's Fresh Market