



Member Focused; Results Driven

Feb. 5, 2026

Oppose

The Honorable Arthur J. Corvese
Chairman: RI House Labor Committee
State of Rhode Island General Assembly
The State House
Providence, RI 02903

RE: House Bill 7362: 32 Hour Work Week

Dear Honorable Chairman:

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 association members, I would like to take this opportunity to register our group's opposition to the proposed 32-hour work week while maintaining 40-hour compensation in House Bill 7362. Reducing the work week for our members would create significant logistical problems around scheduling and coverage throughout the work week. Our member stores operate 7 days a week, and not a 5-day schedule like an office environment. It would require a significant increase in overhead and labor costs. Small businesses, especially, would struggle with the increased labor costs. The result of increasing labor costs are higher prices at the register and further inflationary conditions.

In summary, Rhode Island's food industry is one of the largest – and steadiest – employers in the state. This proposed bill would have a negative impact on our members as it would make it much more difficult to manage and operate their business effectively and efficiently in the State of Rhode Island. This bill is a significant step back for Rhode Island business operators. We ask you to recognize their position when considering House Bill 7362.

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Thank you for allowing our industry to weigh in on this bill.

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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