



June 10, 2025

Chairman Stephen M. Casey  
House Committee on Municipal Government & Housing  
State House, Room 101  
82 Smith St, Providence, RI 02903

Re: Oppose H-6394

Dear Chairman Casey and members of the House Committee on Municipal Government & Housing:

The Providence Working Waterfront Alliance writes today to respectfully share our opposition to H-6394, which would create a new "Class 2B: Commercial real estate" property tax classification for the City of Providence.

The Providence Working Waterfront Alliance is a coalition of marine industrial businesses in the Port of Providence. From home heating oil to road salt to asphalt, our members provide the goods that power Rhode Island and the wider region's economy. Our members are also among Rhode Island's largest recyclers, recycling scrap metal from automobiles and manufacturers. Collectively, our members provide good paying, blue collar jobs and are responsible for hundreds of millions of dollars in total economic impact.

Providence already has among the highest commercial property taxes in the nation. According to a [recent study](#) conducted by the Lincoln Institute of Land Policy, Providence has the 3rd-highest commercial tax rate of cities in the United States.

We are concerned that the creation of this new "Commercial real estate" classification will inevitably lead the city to adopt even higher commercial property taxes on Providence's industrial businesses. This will create a major disincentive for growth and expansion within the port area and could lead to job losses.

Please help us keep the Port of Providence competitive so that it can continue to serve as an economic engine for Providence and the state by opposing H-6394 and even higher property taxes on the city's industrial businesses.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Christopher Hunter".

Christopher D. Hunter  
*Executive Director*