

June 10, 2025

The Honorable Carol Hagan McEntee
Chair, House Small Business Committee

Testimony of the Matunuck Oyster Bar In Support of H6392

Dear Chair McEntee and Committee Members:

I am writing on behalf of the Matunuck Oyster Bar to express our support for H6392. The COVID-19 outdoor dining statutes, adopted during the height of the pandemic, proved invaluable in keeping local businesses open, preserving jobs, and supporting our local economy. H6392 is a natural extension of that initiative and is designed to apply to all food service establishments and provide a critical safety net for businesses that experience unforeseen casualties, such as fire or flood. The bill provides natural safeguards for municipalities to consider temporary dining services on a case-by-case basis by requiring approval from the city or town council before any temporary outdoor dining can proceed.

This legislation is particularly important to the Matunuck Oyster Bar. Following the recent fire at the restaurant, the property was rendered inoperable on the eve of the busiest season of the year. H6392 would allow the restaurant to maintain operations and keep approximately 50 Rhode Islanders employed through the summer months while the restaurant is being rebuilt. In doing so, the bill not only protects jobs but also sustains the local economy, ensuring that the staff and their families can continue to rely on steady employment during this critical period.

On behalf of Perry Raso, we are grateful to the sponsors of this legislation and respectfully urge the Committee to support and pass H6392 so that businesses like the Matunuck Oyster Bar can remain operational during difficult times and continue to contribute to the vibrancy of our state's economy. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,



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