



OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR

Department of Transportation
Two Capitol Hill
Providence, RI 02903

Office 401-222-2481
Fax 401-222-2086
www.dot.ri.gov

March 11, 2025

The Honorable Evan P. Shanley
Chairman
House State Government and Elections Committee
State House
Providence, RI 02903

RE: 2025 H 5730, AN ACT RELATING TO MOTOR AND OTHER VEHICLES -- SIZE, WEIGHT, AND LOAD LIMITS

Dear Chairman, Shanley :

Thank you for the opportunity to allow the Rhode Island Department of Transportation (RIDOT) to respectfully submit this letter of opposition regarding H 5730. This bill " Allows boats and marine assets to utilize the overweight oversize annual blanket permit that was in effect until 2022, and for the resumption of the prior practice of permitting for boats and marine asset transportation.'

If enacted, this bill would allow additional load types to utilize annual permits, which could potentially open the gates for all other types of loads to be accepted. If this were to occur, it would greatly diminish RIDOT's ability to track the number and size/weight of loads that traverse the state's highways.

The Rhode Island Department of Transportation strongly opposes this legislation. Since 2020 when RIDOT became the lead agency for the OSOW permitting process, annual blanket permits have been legal for construction equipment only. Additionally, we have no supportive evidence boats were ever legally allowed to use the annual blanket permit for this purpose. For applicants in need of such permits, RIDOT already has in place single trip permits, which allow for the movement of boats, and all other types of loads. These permits can be closely tracked.

Again, if enacted, this bill would seriously limit our ability to track the number and size/weight of loads that traverse the state's highways, as well as our ability to assess the condition of the infrastructure, which could result in un-expected closures. We respectfully request you take this into consideration as you review this legislation.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide this information and for your diligence in reviewing these pieces of legislation. Please let me know if any further information is needed.

Sincerely,

Peter Alviti, Jr., P.E.

Director, Rhode Island Department of Transportation

cc: **The Honorable Members of the House Committee on Environment and Natural Resources**
 The Honorable Arthur Handy
 Nicole McCarty Esq. Chief Legal Counsel