



RHODE ISLAND TRUCKING ASSOCIATION, INC.

831 BALD HILL ROAD
WARWICK, R.I. 02886

Telephone (401) 729-6600
Fax (401) 729-5220
www.ritrucking.org

February 4, 2026

The Honorable Evan P. Shanley
Chairman, House State Government & Elections
Rhode Island State House
Providence, RI 02903

Re: Opposition to House Bill – H 7381

Dear Chairman Shanley and Committee Members:

The Rhode Island Trucking Association, Inc. (RITA) represents the interests of over 450 member companies comprised of mostly small business who operate commercial vehicles to perpetuate their businesses. Many of these carriers operate under the privileges of strictly-monitored oversized and overweight permits issued by the Rhode Island Department of Transportation (RIDOT). These permits include individual per trip permits, annual divisible load permits and **annual blanket permits**. An annual blanket permit is a 12-month, renewable authorization issued to a commercial carrier, allowing a fleet of vehicles to transport oversized or overweight loads without needing a specific permit for every single trip. These permits generally cover specific, non-divisible loads—such as construction equipment or large machinery—**within strict, predetermined dimensions, weight limits, and approved routes**.

House Bill 7381 proposes to allow one very narrow segment of commercial vehicle, self-propelled cranes, with the ability to transgress Rhode Island under an annual blanket permit at any size, any weight, and any configuration with no restrictions to location, bridges, time of day, and holidays. Aside from abiding by specific, visible bridge postings, this would allow uncontrolled overweight travel over all bridges. **This legislation is nothing short of reckless.**

The spirit of cooperation that exists between RITA members and RIDOT toward ensuring safe, legal and efficient travel for the majority of commercial vehicles and the preservation of fragile infrastructure is undermined by this accommodation. Accordingly, we oppose this bill and urge this committee to stop its passage.

Sincerely,

Christopher J. Maxwell
President & CEO
Rhode Island Trucking Association, Inc.



EXCLUSIVE R.I. AFFILIATE