



Rhode Island Turnpike and Bridge Authority

One East Shore Road | P.O. Box 437 | Jamestown, Rhode Island 02835-0437

February 5, 2026

BY ELECTRONIC MAIL

The Honorable Evan P. Shanley
Chair, House State Government and Elections Committee
Room 101 – State House
Providence, RI 02903

Re: **House Bill No. 7381**

Dear Chairman Shanley and Committee Members:

Thank you for the opportunity to allow the Rhode Island Rhode Island Turnpike and Bridge Authority (RITBA) to respectfully submit this letter of strong opposition regarding H 7381. This bill "authorizes a blanket permit and fee to allow the movement of self-propelled cranes which are in excess of size and weight load requirements, to move on state highways."

This bill would permit unsafe operations that could endanger the motoring public and damage state infrastructure. Self-propelled cranes have various wheel configurations and weights, which routinely exceed legal weight limits, often by a factor of 3 to 5, and carry highly concentrated loads that are especially damaging to bridges.

RITBA already has a functioning, safety-focused permitting program for oversized and overweight vehicles, including cranes, and works daily with the trucking and crane industries to improve safety, efficiency, and compliance. We are working with RIDOT on their implementation of a modern automated permitting system to provide 24/7/365 access through a nationally used platform that prioritizes safety and efficiency.

Finally, H 7381 conflicts with existing law. R.I. Gen. Laws§ 31-25-21 including rush-hour and holiday restrictions based on size and weight to minimize traffic impacts and permitting processes for oversize and overweight vehicles.

For these reasons, we respectfully request you to take this into consideration as you review this legislation.

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Thank you for the opportunity to provide this information and for your diligence in reviewing these pieces of legislation.

Respectfully,



LORI CARON SILVEIRA
Executive Director