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February 05, 2026

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

RE: 2026 H 7381 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 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."

If enacted, H 7381 could result in RIDOT being required to assume worst-case scenario configurations, and a re-evaluation of our full bridge inventory, requiring widespread bridge postings, including the fabrication and installation of these new signs, with a cost exceeding \$20 million and requiring years of maintenance work.

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 can be especially damaging to bridges.

RIDOT 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 implementing 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 for you to 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.

Sincerely,

Peter Alviti, Jr., P.E.
Director, Rhode Island Department of Transportation