



STATE OF RHODE ISLAND

**DIVISION OF MOTOR VEHICLES
ADMINISTRATION OFFICE**

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March 3, 2026

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

**RE: 2026 H-7990- AN ACT RELATING TO MOTOR AND OTHER VEHICLES –
TIRE EFFICIENCY STANDARDS**

Dear Chair Shanley:

The Division of Motor Vehicles ("DMV") writes to express opposition to House Bill 7990, An Act Relating to Motor and Other Vehicles – Tire Efficiency Standards.

The proposed bill would establish standards for tires intended to increase efficiency and improve emissions standards.

It is unclear which agency would be tasked with implementing and enforcing the proposed bill. The proposed bill defines "Department" as being the "department of transportation, division of motor vehicles." The DMV does not, however, fall under the Department of Transportation. Rather, the DMV is a division of the Department of Revenue.

The proposed bill would require the "Department" to "adopt regulations *** establishing energy efficiency standards for new replacement tires for passenger cars and light-duty trucks at levels that serve to promote energy conservation in the state and will be cost effective for consumers who purchase and use such new replacement tires." The drafting of any such regulation, however, would necessarily require the input of engineers in the field of physics to determine the efficiency standards and economists to determine consumer affordability. To the extent that it is the DMV that is meant by "Department", DMV employs neither of these categories of individuals.

Even if it were possible for DMV to draft the proposed regulations, the requirement that tires sold or installed in the State of Rhode Island comply with standards that may be different from those sold nationwide by tire manufacturers may have a seriously detrimental effect on Rhode Island consumers. It is highly doubtful that

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national manufacturers would adjust their operations simply to make different tires for a singular state. It should be noted DMV is aware of only one other state that has attempted to mandate tire efficiency standards by law. In 2003, the State of California passed AB 844 which required the California Energy Commission to adopt a replacement tire efficiency program. Nearly 23 years later, that state has still not promulgated those standards.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,



Walter R. Cradock, Esq.
Administrator

Cc: The Honorable Members of the House Committee on State Government and
Elections
The Honorable Arthur Handy
Nicole McCarty, Esq., Chief Legal Counsel to the Speaker of the House
Thomas A. Verdi, Director, Department of Revenue