



March 24, 2026

The Honorable Robert Britto, Chairman
Senate Commerce Committee
State House
Providence, RI 02903

Re: S.2642, An Act Relating to Commercial Law – General Regulatory Provisions – Protecting Rhode Islanders from Coercive Economic Tactics at Grocery Stores

Dear Chairman Britto,

The undersigned members of the Rhode Island Business Coalition oppose Senate Bill 2642 which we believe while intending to level the playing field for small businesses in buying goods from suppliers as larger employers, would have a negative impact on smaller retailers.

The legislation defines covered goods as eligible foods and consumer packaged goods excluding gasoline, prescription drugs, tobacco, and alcoholic beverages. In addition, the channel of trade definition goes far beyond just grocery stores to also include mass merchandisers, online retailers, discounters, convenience stores and other retail platforms.

We recognize the intention of this bill is to help small employers, however we believe it could have unintended consequences. We are concerned that enforcement will be difficult and therefore unable to achieve the goals of the legislation. In addition, the legislation could deter manufacturers and suppliers from wanting to do business in Rhode Island. This would place small retailers in our state at a distinctive relative to their competitors across the country.

For these reasons, we ask that the Committee take no action on Senate Bill 2642. Thank you for your consideration of our position on this legislation.

Sincerely,

David Chenevert, Chairman, Rhode Island Business Coalition
East Greenwich Chamber of Commerce
Greater Newport Chamber of Commerce

The Rhode Island Business Coalition represents 50 industries and 6,280 businesses that employ 231,200 people throughout Rhode Island.

National Federation of Independent Business

Northern Rhode Island Chamber of Commerce

Rhode Island Beverage Association

Rhode Island Small Business Economic Summit Regulations Subcommittee

Rhode Island Small Business Summit Tax and Budget Committee

Rhode Island Staffing Association

cc. Senate Commerce Committee members