

Dear Chair Britto and members of the Senate Commerce Committee,

My name is Barbara K. Watts, a resident of Kingston, RI. I represent the Rhode Island Chapter of the Citizens Climate Lobby. We write in favor of S2646 AN ACT RELATING TO INSURANCE -- RHODE ISLAND INSURANCE MARKET PROTECTION ACT

It is well known that climate change is costly. Damage caused by rising sea levels and extreme weather events with associated flooding is impacting Rhode Island homeowners now. In fact the state has produced an excellent report on the situation: our statewide coastal resilience plan, [Resilient Rhody](#).

These impacts have begun to affect homeowners' insurance costs and these impacts will only increase in future. Insurance companies are perfectly aware that climate change is making homes more costly to insure, and yet they are investing in fossil fuels that make the situation worse. Insurance companies profit while Rhode Island residents, municipalities and state agencies lose.

In a year when "Affordability" for RI citizens appears to be at the top of the list of concerns of the Governor, it seems S2646 would be an ideal law to pass.

Rhode Island Citizens Climate Lobby members (over 800 in the state) thank Senators Euer, Kallman, Lauria, DiMario, Zurier, Ujifusa, Mack, Murray and Gu for introducing this bill that clearly points out the contradiction of charging for climate impacts while investing in the principal cause of climate change by the insurance industry. Moreover, the bill proposes an ideal solution to the problem!

Sincerely,

Barbara K. Watts, Kingston, RI

State Coordinator, Citizens Climate Lobby