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THE FOUNDATION FOR BIOETHICS IN TECHNOLOGY

TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF SENATE BILL S3224 AN ACT RELATING TO STATE AFFAIRS AND GOVERNMENT — QUONSET DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION

May 5, 2026

To: Senate Committee on Commerce
Attn: Judy Sullivan, Committee Clerk
401-222-2381
slegislation@rilegislature.gov

From: The Foundation for Bioethics in Technology
Re: Support for S3224 — Prohibition of Thermal Waste Conversion Facilities at Quonset/
Davisville

Dear Chair and Members of the Committee,

The Foundation for Bioethics in Technology respectfully submits this testimony **in support of Senate Bill S3224**.

Our organization is a non-political 501(c)(3) dedicated to helping the public understand how emerging technologies intersect with governance, infrastructure, and everyday life. Central to our work is a foundational principle: **informed consent must exist at the community level when technologies with environmental and public impact are introduced**.

S3224 addresses a critical gap in Rhode Island's current governance structure.

Thermal waste conversion technologies, including pyrolysis, are not simply land-use decisions. They implicate air permitting, emissions classification, monitoring, enforcement, and long-term environmental impact. These are the same structural issues currently being raised in Rhode Island's Title V air permitting processes, where residents are seeking clarity on what is being regulated, how it is monitored, and which agency is ultimately responsible.

At present, responsibility is distributed across multiple entities, including the Quonset Development Corporation and the Rhode Island Department of Environmental Management. While each plays a defined role, the combined effect can leave the public without a clear understanding of what decisions are being made, who is accountable, and how compliance will be enforced.

The Foundation has directly observed how this fragmentation affects Rhode Island residents. During a recent proceeding before the Coastal Resources Management Council, we witnessed testimony from a local resident regarding the placement of dredged material along her property boundary. While multiple agencies were involved, the process made it difficult to identify which entity held responsibility for oversight and enforcement especially when liability and health hazards are present. The result was not clarity, but confusion.

Communities cannot meaningfully consent to the introduction of industrial-scale technologies if the regulatory pathway is fragmented, the responsible authority is unclear, and monitoring mechanisms are not fully defined.

S3224 does not prohibit innovation. It ensures that innovation proceeds within a framework where the public is clearly informed, oversight is clearly assigned, and accountability is enforceable.

Delegated authority is not surrender. When authority is exercised through quasi-public entities, it must remain anchored to transparent and accountable state oversight.

This bill restores that balance.

For these reasons, The Foundation for Bioethics in Technology respectfully urges the Committee to support Senate Bill S3224.

Respectfully submitted,



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The Foundation for Bioethics in Technology is a USA-based, non-political, 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization. Our mission is to ensure the next generation inherits not just convenience, but dignity and freedom because innovation without ethics is catastrophe.

STAY HUMAN EVERYONE!

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