



April 30, 2026

The Honorable Louis P. DiPalma
Chairman, Senate Finance Committee
Rhode Island State House
Providence, RI 02903

SenateFinance@rilegislature.gov

SUPPORT S. 2019 – An Act Relating to Taxation – Estate and Transfer Taxes

Dear Chairman DiPalma and Members of the Committee:

On behalf of the Greater Providence Chamber of Commerce, I am writing to express our strong support for S. 2019, legislation that responsibly modernizes Rhode Island's estate tax structure and improves the state's long-term economic competitiveness.

As you know, Rhode Island's estate tax threshold has historically been out of step with neighboring states, creating a disincentive for individuals and families to remain in or relocate to our state. S. 2019 takes a thoughtful, phased approach to addressing this issue by gradually increasing the estate tax exemption beginning in 2027 and continuing over several years.

This incremental structure is both fiscally prudent and economically strategic. By providing predictability and allowing for measured adjustments, the legislation supports responsible budget planning while signaling that Rhode Island is committed to retaining residents, encouraging investment, and supporting generational wealth transfer within our communities.

Importantly, this proposal will help keep family-owned businesses rooted in Rhode Island. Too often, estate tax burdens can force the sale or relocation of closely held businesses, undermining local job creation and economic stability. Raising the exemption threshold reduces this pressure and allows business owners to reinvest in their operations and workforce here at home.

Additionally, aligning Rhode Island more closely with regional norms strengthens our competitive position in attracting and retaining high-net-worth individuals who contribute significantly to the tax base, philanthropic efforts, and overall economic vitality of the state.

S. 2019 strikes the right balance between fiscal responsibility and economic growth. It is a forward-looking measure that supports families, businesses, and Rhode Island's broader economic future.

Thank you for your consideration of this important legislation. We respectfully urge the Committee to support S. 2019.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Laurie White". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial "L".

Laurie White
President
Greater Providence Chamber of Commerce