



May 20, 2026

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

OPPOSE S. 2024 – Rhode Island Climate Superfund Act

Dear Chairman DiPalma:

On behalf of the Greater Providence Chamber of Commerce, I write to express opposition to S. 2024, the proposed Rhode Island Climate Superfund Act. While we share the goal of addressing climate impacts and advancing a more sustainable future, we are concerned that this legislation, as drafted, would create significant economic uncertainty and impose additional costs on Rhode Island businesses and consumers.

The Chamber represents a broad cross-section of Rhode Island's business community, and our members are already facing sustained cost pressures across energy, labor, and supply chains. The financial implications of this proposal remain unclear, but it is likely that the costs associated with retroactive liability for emissions would ultimately be passed through to employers and households. At a time when affordability is a top concern for Rhode Islanders, legislation of this scale should be supported by clear, transparent analysis of its economic impact.

In addition, S. 2024 would establish a new state program within the Department of Environmental Management, including the authority to assess liability, issue cost recovery demands, administer a new fund, and oversee distribution of those funds for climate-related projects. The creation of this new administrative structure raises important questions about long-term costs, implementation complexity, and the expansion of government at a time when efficiency and accountability remain critical priorities.

It is also important to recognize that Rhode Islanders are already making substantial investments in climate and energy initiatives. Through utility bills and other mechanisms, residents and businesses have contributed billions of dollars toward renewable energy development, energy efficiency programs, and emissions reduction efforts. Regional programs such as the Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative (RGGI) already impose limits on emissions from power generation. Without careful alignment, this proposal risks duplicating existing efforts and increasing costs without delivering proportional benefits.

We are also concerned about the scope and structure of the bill, including how “responsible parties” are defined and how liability would be determined. As written, the legislation raises significant legal and constitutional questions, and similar policies are currently being challenged in other jurisdictions. Advancing a framework that may face prolonged litigation could introduce additional uncertainty and deter investment in Rhode Island.

For these reasons, the Chamber respectfully urges the Committee to oppose S. 2024. We remain committed to working collaboratively with policymakers to advance balanced solutions that address climate challenges while maintaining economic competitiveness and affordability for Rhode Islanders.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, consisting of a stylized, continuous line that starts with a horizontal stroke, dips down, and then extends horizontally to the right.

Laurie White
President
Greater Providence Chamber of Commerce