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SUBJECT: Support for Bill No. 2024 - RI Climate Superfund Act of 2026

May 18, 2026

Dear Chair DiPalma and members of the Committee,

My name is **Gregg McPherson**, and I live in **East Greenwich**. I am submitting testimony in support of **Senate Bill No. 2024, the Rhode Island Climate Superfund Act of 2026**.

Rhode Island is already facing the costly impacts of the climate crisis - from stronger storms and flooding to rising sea levels and extreme heat. These climate damages come with real financial burdens on our communities, infrastructure, and public health systems. Right now, American families and our local and state governments are paying these ever-increasing costs while the fossil fuel industry continues to rake in massive profits. The Climate Superfund Act is urgently needed to shift a fair share of those costs onto the companies most responsible for creating them.

This is, at its core, a simple principle: **if you make a mess, you help clean it up**. Rhode Islanders should not be left alone to pay for damage that major fossil fuel companies helped cause while spending decades misleading the public about the risks.

These costs are not abstract. They are already showing up in Rhode Island budgets and public works projects. The town of Warren has spent roughly **\$22 million** to elevate a sewage treatment plant threatened by flooding and sea-level rise. Rhode Island has **19 wastewater treatment facilities**, and a state study found that **seven** would face substantial inundation during a 100-year storm. The state also faces more than **\$1.8 billion** in unmet wastewater infrastructure needs, much of it tied to flood vulnerability. These are the kinds of costs that will keep landing on taxpayers unless we establish a more just system of accountability.

The Climate Superfund Act is a groundbreaking and necessary step to ensure that the companies most responsible for climate change help pay for the harm they have caused. Just as the federal Superfund law made polluters pay for toxic waste cleanups, this bill would hold the biggest carbon emitters financially accountable for climate damages they helped create, using scientific attribution to assign responsibility. The funds recovered would help Rhode Island invest in resilience, infrastructure, and public safety rather than forcing residents and municipalities to bear the burden alone.

I urge you to bring **Bill No. 2024** to a vote and support its passage in 2026.

Sincerely,

Gregg McPherson
East Greenwich