

Testimony in Support for Bill No. 2024 – RI Climate Superfund Act

Jim Sedgwick, 67 Shady Hill Drive, West Warwick RI 02893

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Dear Chair DiPalma and members of the Committee, I hereby submit testimony in support of Senate Bill No. 2024. Rhode Island is facing the costly impacts of the climate crisis. We urgently need the Climate Superfund Act to shift the burden onto those companies most responsible for this nightmare, in order to protect the future of our communities.

Every day I go out in the street here in West Warwick, and I see people trying to survive the punishing heat brought on by climate change. The summer temperatures and humidity are killing us, and it just keeps getting unimaginably worse. Yet somehow we accept it and go about our business as usual. It enrages me to think the fossil fuel industry buried vital scientific predictions and lied to us for decades. So now it's so much harder to transition to the energy alternatives we desperately need, so future generations can survive.

The Climate Superfund Act is a groundbreaking and necessary step to ensure that the oil and gas industries pay for the harm they caused us. Just like the federal Superfund law made polluters pay for toxic waste cleanups, I urge you to bring Bill No. 2024 to a vote and support its passing in 2026.

Sincerely,

Jim Sedgwick            May 21, 2026

West Warwick