



Citizens' Climate Lobby

Rhode Island

May 19, 2026

Senator Louis P. DiPalma
Chairman, Senate Committee on Finance
Rhode Island General Assembly, Rhode Island State House
82 Smith Street
Providence, RI 02903

Dear Chairman DiPalma and Members of the Senate Finance Committee:

The Rhode Island Chapter of Citizens' Climate Lobby strongly **supports S.2024, Rhode Island Climate Superfund Act of 2026**. Our chapter's volunteers are part of a national nonpartisan network advocating for effective climate policy, specifically putting a price on climate change pollution at the source, for instance, at the site of fossil fuel extraction, production, and processing. Had carbon pricing become federal law 20 years ago and not continually blocked by fossil fuel lobbyists, we might have been spared some of the worst impacts of a climate that is now destabilized. In a 2019 USGS report, Rhode Island was singled out as the fastest warming state of the lower 48 states, and had already passed the U.N. threshold of 2 degrees Celsius (almost four degrees Fahrenheit). The results of climate change are numerous, affecting public health, property values and insurance, water and air quality, fisheries, and tourism.

As RI residents and taxpayers face increasing sea level rise, more extreme weather, more inland and coastal flooding, warmer and more humid summers, poorer air and water quality, insurance policy rates for homeowners will continue to rise and so will energy bills, as there is more demand during extreme weather. State, county and local infrastructure will need to be adapted, relocated and remodeled to become resilient. This will cost billions and there is no longer a guarantee the federal government will offer any assistance. RI taxpayers should not be expected to bear these costs. Our best recourse is the commonly accepted 'polluter pays principle' – ensuring that the fossil fuel industries- the source of climate change pollution - should bear the costs of the social ills they have caused.

Climate change and its impacts are not going away; they are only getting worse. Now is the time for our state legislators to create a climate superfund so that we can begin to take charge of our future. We don't want to be left drowning in place like so many of the saltmarshes bordering the Ocean State. We are very grateful to the legislators who introduced and cosponsored S.2024, and we urge you to bring this very important bill to the floor for a vote.

Thank you,

MJ Sorrentino, Jamestown, RI, Co-founder, Citizens' Climate Lobby Rhode Island