

**Trafton testimony in behalf of the Environment Council of Rhode Island supporting S 2238
Senate Finance Committee, April 30, 2026.**

Dear Chair DiPalma and Honorable Committee Members,

I'm Peter Trafton from Providence, Co-VP of Policy for the Environment Council of Rhode Island (ECRI) writing with strong support for S2238, which creates an additional 3% tax rate on taxable income above \$640,000 beginning with the 2027 tax year.

It is important to be mindful of the setting for this proposal. The current federal government has reduced taxes on rich Americans and withdrawn its financial support for various state needs and functions. The needy are the ones who have been left out. As America's disparities of wealth and income rapidly increase, we have Rhode Islanders who cannot afford the costs-of-living of food, of energy resources, of healthcare, transportation, education, and other essentials of life in America. S 2238 by Sen. Murray and colleagues provides an equitable solution for needs that Rhode Island cannot otherwise fund. It is adjusted to apply to those Rhode Islanders with the top 1% of income. The approach is progressive, surely needed, and wise.

ECRI supports S 2238, the so-called "millionaires tax." We request you to do the same and advance its passage this year, when it is so badly needed.

Thanks very much for considering my comments in ECRI's behalf.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "PTrafton". The letters are cursive and somewhat stylized.

Peter Trafton
Co-VP for Policy
The Environment Council of Rhode Island