



April 30, 2026

The Honorable Louis P. DiPalma, Chairman
Senate Finance Committee
State House
Providence, RI 02903

Re: S.2251, An Act Relating to Taxation – Estate and Transfer Taxes – Liability and Computation

Dear Chairman DiPalma,

The undersigned members of the Rhode Island Business Coalition would like to express our support for Senate Bill 2251, An Act Relating to Taxation – Estate and Transfer Taxes – Liability and Computation and thank Whip Tikoian for introducing this legislation.

S.2251 would eliminate the estate tax in Rhode Island. It is important to note that Rhode Island is one of only twelve states that assess a tax on assets passed onto family upon someone's death. The federal exemption is currently \$15 million. According to the Tax Foundation's 2024 report, Rhode Island has the second lowest estate tax threshold in the country.¹

Financial planners tell clients every day not to die in Rhode Island based on the estate and transfer tax. We believe it would be more advantageous to encourage older individuals to keep their residency in Rhode Island, spend their discretionary income here for more than 5.9 months a year, and allow their heirs to transfer assets without burdensome taxes after their loved ones have passed.

For these reasons, we support the passage of S.2251. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

¹ Tax Foundation, Does Your State Have An Estate Or Inheritance Tax?
<https://taxfoundation.org/data/all/state/estate-inheritance-taxes/>

Associated Builders and Contractors – Rhode Island Chapter
East Greenwich Chamber of Commerce
Greater Newport Chamber of Commerce
National Federation of Independent Business
Propane Gas Association of New England
Rhode Island Association of Realtors
Rhode Island Bankers Association
Rhode Island Business Group on Health
Rhode Island Hospitality Association
Rhode Island Lumber and Building Materials Dealers Association
Rhode Island Marine Trade Association
Rhode Island Society of CPAs
Rhode Island Staffing Association
Rhode Island Small Business Economic Summit Regulations Committee
Rhode Island Small Business Economic Summit Tax and Budget Committee

cc. Senate Finance Committee members