

**G R E A T E R
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C H A M B E R O F
C O M M E R C E**

April 30, 2026

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

SenateFinance@rilegislature.gov

Oppose - S. 2361 – Wealth Tax

Dear Chairman DiPalma and Members of the Committee:

On behalf of the Greater Providence Chamber of Commerce, I write to express our strong opposition to S. 2361, which would impose a new one percent tax on the worldwide wealth of Rhode Island residents.

S. 2361 would tax a broad range of assets—including financial investments and other intangible assets—based on their fair market value, creating a new and complex layer of taxation that extends far beyond traditional income-based systems.

This approach presents real challenges for business owners and investors. Many Rhode Island employers, particularly those operating as closely held or family-owned businesses, have wealth tied up in business assets that are not liquid. Taxing these assets annually based on valuation—rather than realized income—could force difficult decisions, including delaying investment, reducing payroll, or, in some cases, relocating operations outside of Rhode Island.

We are also concerned about the administrative and compliance burdens associated with this proposal. Determining the fair market value of a wide range of intangible assets on an annual basis introduces uncertainty, increases costs, and creates the potential for disputes. These complexities would place additional strain on both taxpayers and the state's administrative resources.

Equally important is the broader message this policy sends. Rhode Island competes regionally for talent, capital, and innovation. A tax on worldwide wealth—particularly one that is uncommon among states—risks placing Rhode Island at a competitive disadvantage and could

accelerate the outmigration of high-income residents and entrepreneurs whose investments support job creation and economic activity here at home.

At a time when affordability and economic stability remain top priorities, we believe the state should focus on policies that encourage growth, attract investment, and support employers, rather than implementing new taxes that may have unintended negative consequences.

For these reasons, we urge the Committee to oppose S. 2361.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Laurie White". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Laurie White
President
Greater Providence Chamber of Commerce