

February 26, 2025

Hon. Marvin Abney Chair House Finance Committee State House Providence, Rhode Island 02903

Dear Chair Abney:

On behalf of the Greater Providence Chamber of Commerce, I am writing today in opposition to the proposed 10 percent tax on revenue earned from digital advertising.

Enacting **CHAPTER 44-72 Digital Advertising Gross Revenue Tax** as presently defined would have negative consequences for major Rhode Island employers, businesses, consumers, and the state's economy as a whole.

Digital advertising is ubiquitous and has transformed the economy over the past decade, allowing businesses of all sizes to reach potential customers and grow. Imposing taxes on digital advertising would disproportionately burden Rhode Island businesses and consumers, leading to increased prices, reduced services, layoffs, and other challenges.

In addition, a digital advertising tax would likely face legal challenges and could result in costly litigation for the state. Maryland's defense of a similar tax has already proven to be expensive and uncertain, and Rhode Island could face similar consequences if such a tax is implemented and later overturned in court.

We urge you and your colleagues to focus on creating a competitive business environment in Rhode Island that encourages innovation and growth, rather than imposing new taxes. As has been our consistent theme, we believe that opposing taxes on digital advertising is the right choice for our state's economy and businesses. Thank you for considering our perspective on this important issue.

Sincerely,

Laurie White President