



**Member Focused; Results Driven**

March 5, 2024

The Honorable Arthur J. Corvese  
Chairperson: House Committee on Labor  
The State House  
Providence, RI 02903

**RE: House Bill 7319: Healthy and Safe Families and Workplaces Act**

Dear Chairperson:

My name is Scott Bromberg and I am the President & CEO of the Rhode Island Food Dealers Association, a trade association established in 1909 to serve the needs of the food industry in the State of Rhode Island. Our membership includes chain and independent grocery retailers, wholesalers, suppliers, distributors, food manufacturers, brokers, and other organizations affiliated with the food industry in our state. As an industry, we are among the state's largest employers and revenue generators.

On behalf of our association members, I would like to take this opportunity to register our association's opposition to the reduction of the work week proposed in House Bill 7319 which mandates a reduction of the workweek to 32 hours from 40 hours. The bill states that any employer continuing to operate under a forty-hour work week must pay overtime after thirty-two hours. This increase in overtime pay and reduction of the work week will significantly increase the cost of labor to a point where the results could be catastrophic to our industry and lead to further price increases at the register for consumers.

In summary, Rhode Island's food industry is one of the largest – and steadiest – employers in the state. This proposed bill would have a negative impact on our members as it would make it much more difficult to manage and operate their business effectively and efficiently in Rhode Island. We ask you to recognize their position when considering House Bill 7319.

Thank you for allowing our industry to weigh in on this bill.

Sincerely,

Scott Bromberg  
President & CEO  
RI Food Dealers Association

RIFDA

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CC: Hon. K. Joseph Shekarchi, Speaker  
Rhode Island House of Representatives

Christopher R. Blazejewski, Majority Leader  
Rhode Island House of Representatives

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