



RHODE ISLAND TRUCKING ASSOCIATION, INC.

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February 29, 2024

Representative Evan Shanley
Chairman
House Committee on State Government and Elections
Rhode Island House of Representatives
State House
83 Smith Street
Providence, Rhode Island 02903

RE: H – 7470 SUPPORT

Dear Chairman Shanley and Committee Members:

On behalf of the 500 members of the Rhode Island Trucking Association (RITA), I write to you in full support of House Bill 7470 which addresses load securement and, more specifically, the fastening of load covers. RITA, now in its 93rd year, has a mission rooted in advocating for highway safety.

Some 30 years ago, while working in my prior capacity on the frontlines of trucking, a passenger car drove into our facility and the driver showed me a 6-inch piece of angle iron lodged in the grill of his car. That object had come from one of our commercial vehicles and barely missed striking that automobile's windshield, and worse, the driver. That 6-inch piece of steel sits on my office credenza as a firm visual reminder of the dangers of objects of any kind falling from trucks. There is no margin for error in load securement and our Association regularly reinforces best practices through ongoing communications and formal classroom training.

In conclusion, we laud this common sense, safety-based legislation and strongly urge not only its passage, but also full and effective enforcement on our roads and highways. My only additional comment would be that this bill could be further expanded to address all falling debris and articles from commercial vehicles – not that which results from just unfastened load covers. To that end, we stand ready to further assist this Committee.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Christopher J. Maxwell".

Christopher J. Maxwell
President & CEO
Rhode Island Trucking Association, Inc.



EXCLUSIVE R.I. AFFILIATE