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**Testimony in Support of H6164 – The Public Protection Authority**  
House Committee on State Government and Elections

Dear Chair Shanley, Clerk Sepe and esteemed Members of the Committee,

My name is Caitlin Sanford, and I am writing as a Rhode Islander and a member of Climate Action Rhode Island in strong support of H6164, legislation to codify the Attorney General's Public Protection Bureau.

At a time when federal protections are being rolled back and Rhode Islanders are increasingly vulnerable to corporate misconduct—whether it be from polluters, exploitative employers, or deceptive health care and housing practices—we **need a strong state-level authority with the tools to respond swiftly and effectively. This bill would give the Attorney General the power to investigate and take action against persistent illegal conduct, closing the enforcement gaps that too often leave Rhode Islanders without recourse.**

**This bill would help ensure existing protections you've worked so hard on in the legislature are enforceable.** Whether it's private nursing homes providing substandard care, or polluters endangering communities while federal agencies look the other way, Rhode Islanders deserve an Attorney General empowered to act decisively.

Our organization is concerned with environmental justice, I see this legislation as essential to climate accountability. It gives **our state the authority to hold polluters responsible when other institutions fail to act. Cases such as *State v. Pioneer Investments* and *State v. Smart Green* show that persistent illegality can flourish without stronger enforcement tools.**

Codifying the Public Protection Bureau would align Rhode Island with best practices already in place in states like New York, while responding to the specific needs of our communities. I respectfully urge you to support this legislation to safeguard the health, rights, and dignity of Rhode Islanders.

Thank you for your leadership and consideration.

Sincerely,  
Caitlin Sanford  
Co-President, Climate Action Rhode Island