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Sustainable Economic Growth  
& Quality of Place

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March 4, 2021

Representative Raymond A. Hull  
Chairman  
House Municipal Government and Housing Committee  
Rhode Island General Assembly  
82 Smith Street  
Providence, RI 02903

Dear Representative Hull and Committee Members:

**Re: H-5480 AN ACT RELATING TO TAXATION- PROPERTY SUBJECT TO TAXATION**

Grow Smart RI writes in support of proposed legislation H-5480 which exempts railroad related property from taxation. We believe this tax exemption would support a public benefit of improved access to transportation alternatives and promote private investment in the Pawtucket Central Falls Transit Oriented Development district.

Grow Smart RI is Rhode Island's statewide smart growth research and advocacy organization. We're a non-profit alliance of business and civic leaders that provides policy guidance to those seeking thoughtful, long-term economic growth. We have a 22-year history of promoting best practice tools and strategies to advance economic and community revitalization, including transit oriented development.

We have worked collaboratively with the Rhode Island municipalities that would be impacted by restored intercity passenger rail service and we believe that restored service will unleash significant private investment in the areas surrounding station stops.

Grow Smart RI has been a champion for the restoration of passenger rail service along the Providence-Worcester line and the community revitalization benefits that would result. Thank you for your consideration of this bill.

Sincerely,

John Flaherty  
Deputy Director