



Testimony of Matthew Netto, AARP Rhode Island  
**In Support of House Bill 7138**  
House Corporations Committee  
April 7, 2026

Chairman Solomon and members of the House Corporations Committee:

AARP is a nonpartisan, social mission organization with 38 million members nationwide and nearly 125,000 members here in Rhode Island. We advocate on behalf of issues that impact older adults, and we appreciate the opportunity to offer our support for enabling the Rhode Island Public Transit Authority (RIPTA) to work with the Massachusetts Bay Transit Authority (MBTA) to allow commuter rail passes to be used as dual passes for both RIPTA and MBTA as House Bill 7138 from Representative Lombardi intends to do.

One-third of US residents do not drive. This number includes children, many people with incomes too low to afford the upkeep of a personal vehicle, more than one in five people over the age of 65, many people with a disability, and others who, for a variety of reasons, choose not to drive. Transportation options such as rail and bus are vitally important to Rhode Islanders who do not own a vehicle. These modes of transportation increase access and convenience for all looking to travel throughout Rhode Island and Massachusetts.

The creation of a “dual pass” for RIPTA and MBTA would boost regional connectivity and encourage travel by rail. This proposed pass would promote public transportation that easily navigates the “route 95 corridor” between Rhode Island and Boston, while also including South Shore Massachusetts due to the new South Shore rail and RIPTA bus service from RI to Fall River.

We appreciate this legislation’s commitment to ensuring that Rhode Islanders have access to all the benefits that local rail and buses offer them. AARP Rhode Island supports House Bill 7138 and asks you to recommend passage. Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Matt Netto".

Matt Netto  
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