

To: [HouseFinance@rilegislature.gov](mailto:HouseFinance@rilegislature.gov)

Subject Line: Governor's proposed FY 2025 RIPTA budget - SUPPORT.

Dear Chairman and Committee members,

My name is Barbara K. Watts. I live in Kingston, RI. My deep concern about the financial crisis of public transportation originates from two sources:

1) I am an adjunct professor and Marine Research Scientist Emeritus at the URI Oceanography Bay Campus and have been since 1980. As such I know how many of our students depend on RIPTA to attend graduate student classes. They do not have cars.

2) I am also the State Coordinator for Citizens' Climate Lobby Rhode Island State Chapter with over 600 members. Our main goal is reduction in greenhouse gases to protect climate and so we are keenly aware that Rhode Island State Law requires a reduction in greenhouse gases to net zero by 2050 and 45% below 1990 emissions by 2030. In RI transportation is a huge part of these carbon emissions and maintaining and increasing mass transportation is key to meeting Act on Climate goals.

The Governor's budget still leaves an \$8 million deficit for FY 2025. This is why I am urging the General Assembly to increase the Governor's inadequate budget proposal to fully fund and find an increased, stable funding solution for RIPTA that does not rely on the federal government or declining gas tax revenue.

I therefore urge you to **support HB7774, which advocates for an added \$78 million appropriation in addition to the \$10 million in the Governor's Budget, to fully fund RIPTA in the upcoming FY2025 house budgetary session.**

Sincerely,

Barbara K. (Sullivan) Watts

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AND

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