



# State of Rhode Island

## HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

REPRESENTATIVE REBECCA KISLAK, *District 4*  
*Second Vice-Chair; Committee on Education*  
*Committee on Environment and Natural Resources*  
*Committee on Health and Human Services*  
*Committee on Innovation, Internet and Technology*

February 27, 2024

Rep. Marvin Abney, Chairman  
House Finance Committee

By e-mail: [HouseFinance@rilegislature.gov](mailto:HouseFinance@rilegislature.gov)

Re: Budget Article 6, Section 10 (Gas Tax)

Dear Chairman Abney and members of the committee:

This is the first of what I imagine to be a number of letters I will write to the committee this year regarding the critical need to fund RIPTA. The current budget, as proposed, leaves an \$8 million funding gap for RIPTA. Public transit is an important means of transportation for many of us in Rhode Island. A world class state needs even better public transit system than we currently have. I hope that the committee sees fit to pass a budget that not only funds RIPTA at the current service levels, further invest in the drivers so they receive adequate pay at levels that mean that we can hire enough drivers, and also takes steps to fund our transit master plan.

I write in anticipation of the hearing on Wednesday because the committee is hearing Article 6, Section 10, regarding distribution of the funds from the gas tax. This is one important way to provide funding to public transportation, and so I support this funding and this section of the budget. However, I want to point out that proceeds from the gas tax are not a stable nor sustainable way to provide adequate and sufficient funding for accessible public transit Rhode Islanders need and deserve.

Please include this piece of the proposed funding for RIPTA, and also prioritize funding RIPTA more sustainably and more completely in this budget and going forward.

Very truly yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Rebecca Kislak", is located below the text "Very truly yours,".

Representative Rebecca Kislak

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