

To: Chair Abney and RI House Finance Committee
From: Valerie Reishuk
Re: SUPPORT for H5467 H5468 H5405

5.21.25

Chair Abney and RI House Finance Committee members,

My name is Valerie Reishuk, I'm from Providence, and Chris Blazejewski is my Rep. I write today in SUPPORT of

- *H5467 Motor Fuel Tax 30% RIPTA Allocation (Stewart)

- *H5468 Motor Fuel Tax 2yr Inflation Rate (Tanzi)

- *H5405 Rideshares Tax Reallocation (Morales).

Rhode Islanders are savvy, thrifty, resourceful people. We will adapt to changing circumstances, and we most definitely will turn down a thermostat or drive less to save money. We ask you, as our legislators, to provide the basic public transit service we need to continue our frugal habits.

As Ocean Staters plan for uncertainty, it is your responsibility to provide reliable public transportation for everyone. Bridges may fail. The stock market may waver. Hurricanes may hit. In times like ours, RI families may downsize from two cars to one, or from one car to zero. This can be temporary, or it may be permanent.

Economizing by reducing one's transportation costs makes sense. For most of us, it's the second largest expense we have. Dave Ramsey and Suze Orman tell people to cut transportation costs all the time. When the GA fails to properly fund RIPTA, you delete this budget option for the majority of Ocean Staters. You force us all to shoulder the expense of owning cars. When RIPTA isn't funded properly, buses don't arrive on time. Our older kids can't reliably take the bus to college. Working couples can't choose to have one partner commute via RIPTA.

You have before you several viable plans for permanently improving RIPTA funding. My personal favorites are

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because these are sustainable/restorative funding approaches, not one-year band-aids for a shortfall. And every bill sponsor is a bona fide Public Transit Champion who rides RIPTA and understands the solutions which will work.

Road construction firms, automotive manufacturers, petroleum producers and insurance providers want you to believe that 100% of our gas tax income should fund *car travel* in Rhode Island. I disagree with them. 70% for car travel, 30% for *public transit* seems fair.

My point is, the RI House must preserve a robust RIPTA public transit option for Rhode Islanders. Our New England culture promotes thrift, economy, and self-determination. Removing frequent and reliable bus service disrupts family budgets and erodes our proud traditions.

My name is Val Reishuk, and I SUPPORT

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Please let House leadership know that this is your priority legislation topic. Advance these bills if you can.

Respectfully,
Val Reishuk