

Testimony in support of H5467: Motor Fuel Tax—Allocation Extension

Dr. Hans Scholl, 71 Fales Avenue, Barrington, RI 02806

Date of Hearing: May 21, 2025

To Chair Abney and the honorable Members of the House Finance Committee:

I support the bill because it will bring financial relief to RIPTA in a time where RIPTA is not sufficiently funded and will have to significantly cut back on service.

These services cuts will hit commuters in rural areas particularly hard, because they depend on RIPTA to get to work. If they lose that service they will no longer be able to use public transportation to commute to their workplaces, and are at risk to also losing their jobs. To make things worse, service cuts would impact in particular the financially most vulnerable residents, who often can't afford to own a car.

The bill will bring relief by increasing the allocation of funds from the gas tax to RIPTA from a currently fixed 9.75 cents per gallon to 30% of proceeds (an estimated 11.4 cents per gallon) resulting in almost \$7 million more, and it would be indexed to inflation going forward.

Please bring the bill to a vote in 2025.

Thank you very much for considering my input, and thank you to Representative Stewart for introducing this important bill.



Dr. Hans Scholl

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