

Dear Chairman Abney and Committee members,

My name is Jamie Pahigian. I live in Providence and I am writing in support of House Bills H5467 and H5468, which are critical to the sustainability and future growth of public transit in Rhode Island. These bills present a key opportunity to close this gap by securing a more reliable and stable funding source for RIPTA.

There is no denying that trips in private vehicles have an outsized impact on the environment and people's physical safety, in comparison to trips on RIPTA buses. It should also be noted that transit use facilitates private vehicle use, by reducing traffic and reducing demand for parking in dense spaces. For these reasons, it makes sense that the transit mode that carries a higher collective cost to our society should help to subsidize lower-impact transit options.

Together, H5467 and H5468 offer a targeted solution that could help close as much as \$7 million of RIPTA's budget deficit, while also providing a long-term mechanism to protect transit funding in the face of evolving challenges. This includes addressing the long-term decline of the gas tax revenue, which is expected to decrease as electric vehicles become more widespread.

I urge you to support H5467 & H5468, to give RIPTA a fair share of the Motor Fuel Tax and support the riders who rely on the service.

Sincerely,

Jamie Pahigian  
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