



State of Rhode Island
Lieutenant Governor Sabina Matos

May 20, 2025

Representative Marvin L. Abney
Chair, House Finance Committee
82 Smith Street
Providence, RI 02903

Re: Letter of Support for H.5468: Relating to Motor and Other Vehicles — Motor Fuel Tax

Dear Chair Abney:

I write to offer my strong support for H.5468: Relating to Motor and Other Vehicles — Motor Fuel Tax. This bill would change how the gas tax is impacted by inflation. Currently, the tax is evaluated every two years and increased against inflation; however, the calculation is made using only the previous year's inflation rate. This disparity contributes to the severe deficit impacting RIPTA. H.5468 ensures that the inflation adjustment considers the total amount of inflation over the two-year period, increasing the amount of gas tax collected, and therefore the amount RIPTA receives.

RIPTA is more than just a transportation service—it is a lifeline to those with no other means to travel throughout the state. Whether it's seniors, people with disabilities, families with young children, college students, or those conscious of the environmental impact autos have, RIPTA connects communities and people. Unfortunately, their funding is presently dictated by mechanisms and calculations that are out-of-touch with the evolving transportation infrastructure of our state. We need funds, and funding mechanisms, that empower RIPTA not just to maintain the status quo, but to grow and evolve in step with our community.

I am truly grateful to the Save RIPTA coalition for leading the efforts in Rhode Island to fight for public transportation and those who use it. By working together, we can ensure that every Rhode Islander has the ability to travel throughout the state in a way that is accessible, accommodating, easy, comprehensive, and fast. I look forward to the future of RIPTA, but that future is predicated on the success of bills like H. 5468. I urge your committee to rule on this bill favorably.

Sincerely,

Sabina Matos
Lieutenant Governor