



Environment Council of Rhode Island

Re: Environment Council of Rhode Island supports H-5475
From Peter Trafton of Providence, Testimony supporting H-5475

Dear Chairman Abney and Honorable Committee Members,

On behalf of the Environment Council of Rhode Island, I write with strong support for House Bill 5475 by Rep. Handy and colleagues. We thank them for crafting this bill and submitting it for the benefit of all of us who love bicycles.

For some years, the Environment Council of Rhode Island has supported passage of this bills predecessors. We remain enthusiastic supporters, because increased travel by bicycle will decrease the use of other vehicles, resulting in a healthier environment, and adding personal health benefits for the rider.

Section 44-18-30 of the General Laws in Chapter 44-18 entitled "Sales and 2 Use Taxes — Liability and Computation" is replete with exemptions from sales and use taxes. Our general assembly looks kindly upon beneficial items and supports them with tax exemptions.

Bicycles, whether new or used, are certainly deserving of joining the collection of exempted items. With the tariffs being imposed by Trump, the price of do bicycles is certain to rise, and most of them these days are actually manufactured in China. It would therefore be most timely for Rhode Island to exempt bicycles from our sales and use taxes.

Therefore, ECRI urges you to pass H5475 from committee, advance it to the House, and support its passage into law.

Thank you for considering our comments.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "PG Trafton".

Peter Trafton, MD
Co-VP of Policy, Environment Council of Rhode Island