

Via Electronic Mail

May 21, 2025

The Honorable Marvin L. Abney  
Chair, House Committee on Finance  
Room 35, State House  
Providence, RI 02903

Re: CLF **Supports** House Bill No. 6006 – 2026 Bond Referenda

Dear Chair Abney:

The Conservation Law Foundation (“CLF”) appreciates the opportunity to comment on House Bill No. 6006, which would place a ballot question before voters in November, 2026, authorizing the state to issue \$25 million in bonds to support implementation of the state's Bicycle Mobility Plan. We offer our enthusiastic support for this bill.

CLF is a member-supported non-profit advocacy organization working to protect public health and the environment and build healthy communities in Rhode Island and throughout New England. CLF supports policies that increase viable green transportation and help to achieve the greenhouse gas emissions reduction mandates of the Act on Climate.

H-6006 would give Rhode Islanders the option of funding capital investments into the 2020 Bicycle Mobility Plan, which would provide seamless transportation and recreation links for bikers across the state and decrease carbon emissions.<sup>1</sup> This data-driven plan, which has already been adopted by the state, is a necessary investment into our environment, economy, and public health.

Rhode Island is well situated for investments in bike infrastructure. More than half of all trips taken by Rhode Islanders are under three miles, and nearly a third are less than a mile. Short trips are great for travelling by bike, but we need to have the infrastructure for it to be safe and viable. While the federal funding ecosystem is full of uncertainties right now, passage of this bond could leverage up to another \$125 million in federal investment into this statewide plan.

According to Rhode Island Department of Environmental Management’s published Greenhouse Gas Emissions Inventory, Rhode Island’s transportation sector accounts for over a third of Rhode

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<sup>1</sup> *Rhode Island Moving Forward: Bicycle Mobility Plan*, available at <https://planning.ri.gov/sites/g/files/xkgbur826/files/documents/LRTP/Bicycle-Mobility-Plan.pdf>.

Island's greenhouse gas emissions.<sup>2</sup> That is untenable. The Act on Climate, which sets enforceable climate emissions reduction requirements, mandates that Rhode Island achieve net-zero greenhouse gas emissions by 2050.<sup>3</sup> More bikes safely replacing cars on the road would help the state achieve this mandate, while having the added benefit of reducing traffic congestion.

CLF urges the General Assembly to add this project to the ballot next fall. It is not just an investment in safe bicycle and pedestrian networks – it is an investment in the health and wellbeing of Rhode Island and its residents. We therefore ask that you support House Bill No. 6006.

Thank you for your time and consideration of this testimony.

Respectfully submitted,



Erin Ritter  
Program Coordinator, Rhode Island  
Conservation Law Foundation

cc: Members of the House Committee on Finance  
Representative Arthur Handy  
Representative Kathleen Fogarty  
Representative Michelle McGaw  
Representative Rebecca Kislak  
Representative Lauren Carson  
Representative David Morales  
Representative Brandon Potter  
Representative Edith Ajello  
Darrèll Brown, Vice President, Rhode Island, Conservation Law Foundation

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<sup>2</sup> R.I. Dep't of Env'tl. Mgmt., *2020 Rhode Island Greenhouse Gas Emissions Inventory* 3 (2023), available at <https://dem.ri.gov/sites/g/files/xkgbur861/files/2023-10/2020%20RI%20GHG%20Emissions%20Inventory%20Summary.pdf>.

<sup>3</sup> R.I. Gen. Laws § 42-6.2-9.