



May 21, 2025

The Honorable Marvin L. Abney
Chair, House Finance Committee
Rhode Island State House, 82 Smith Street, Providence, Rhode Island 02903

**RE: Support for HB 5405 – An Act Relating to Taxation – Sales and Use Taxes – Liability and Computation;
HB 5467 – An Act Relating to Motor and Other Vehicles – Motor Fuel Tax;
HB 5468 – An Act Relating to Motor and Other Vehicles – Motor Fuel Tax;
HB 5470 – An Act Relating to Capital Development Program -- 2026 Bond Referenda; and
HR 6020 – Joint Resolution – Making An Appropriation of \$32,594,799 to the Rhode Island Public Transit Authority**

Dear Chair Abney and Members of the Committee,

On behalf of One Neighborhood Builders, a Rhode Island housing and community development organization based in Providence, I write in strong support of five bills that would benefit the Rhode Island Public Transit Authority and allow it to continue to provide a critical service to Rhode Islanders: House Bills 5405, 5467, 5468, and 5470 and House Resolution 6020.

These bills would address the need for additional funds to keep RIPTA functioning and create new sources of revenue. HR 6020, introduced by Representative Alzate, would close RIPTA's \$32.6 million budget deficit in 2026. HB 5470, introduced by Representative Tanzi, would propose a \$100 million bond to invest in our statewide transit system. Without these funds, RIPTA will be unable to provide adequate services and appropriately invest and expand our state's transit system. HB 5405 and 5467, introduced by Representatives Morales and Stewart, respectively, would support RIPTA through additional taxes and surcharges on ridesharing. These revenue streams would allow RIPTA to continue to expand its service so that it can better serve transit riders. HB 5468, introduced by Representative Tanzi, would adjust RIPTA's allocation of the motor fuel tax to better align it with inflation and the increase in the gas tax. This small change would provide RIPTA with significant funding that would provide dramatically better services to riders.

Many of ONB's residents rely on RIPTA to get to school, work, and access essential services. Without increased funding to RIPTA, routes and service would likely be significantly reduced, and our residents would be unable to have reliable access to public transit. Additionally, affordable housing developments receive funding based on several factors, including their proximity to public transit. As our state rightly prioritizes increased housing production, it is critical that we also prioritize increased access to public transportation.

I urge you to support HB 5405, 5467, 5468, and 5470 and HR 6020 to provide vital support to Rhode Island's transit workers and riders.

I strongly encourage the committee to pass this important legislation. I am happy to talk further about these issues; please feel free to reach out to me at chapman@onenb.org.

Thank you for your consideration.

66 Chaffee Street
Providence, RI 02909

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401-351-8719

oneneighborhoodbuilders.org

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Peter H. Chapman", with a horizontal line drawn through the end of the signature.

Peter H. Chapman
President & CEO, One Neighborhood Builders

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Providence, RI 02909

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