

Dear House Finance Committee

This is Barry Schiller, a lifelong bicyclist, writing to suggest the addition of \$5 million in proposed bonds for "shared use paths" or "bikeways" to the "Green Bond" in H7126 Article 6 Question 5.. Note DEM had proposed, and voters approved, \$10 million for bikeways in 2016 and \$5 million for bikeways in 2018 as part of their Green Bonds then. The funds were used for projects such as connecting URI to the South County path. But there has been nothing since.. In light of the state's fiscal issues I am suggesting the lower amount from those bonds be added to restart the bike program.

As result of those omissions, our bikeway program has largely stalled, there has been virtually no progress on getting the Blackstone Bikeway to central Pawtucket and Woonsoocket, in getting the South County path to the coast in Narragansett, in building anything on Aquidneck Island or in the East Bay,, in extending the Woonasquatucket bike path to the northwest, or in connecting the bike paths in Providence,

Thus we are losing out in attracting tourism as other places build out their networks, we lose out in further encouraging inexpensive, healthy, non-polluting and often fun way to travel, we lose out in reducing emissions for transportation as bicycles are by far the most energy efficient way to travel. Only walking is comparable. On a life cycle basis it was estimated that traveling by bike is 6 times more efficient than riding in a city bus, 12 times more efficient than riding in an electric car, and 27 times more efficient than in a gas car. (source Lufthansa Innovation Hub) We do need to save energy, reduce emissions, and biking is one way to do this, it should not continue to be neglected.

Thank you for your consideration of this testimony

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