



## more, better & safer bicycling

April 13, 2026

To: Chair Marvin Abney and members of the House Finance Committee

Re: Support for H8197.

Bari Freeman  
Executive Director

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Dear Chair Abney and Honorable Members of the House Finance Committee:

I am writing to express support for House Bill H8197 and to thank Representatives Handy, Chippendale, Alzate, Boylan, McGaw, Cortvriend, McNamara, Cotter, Tanzi, and Place for sponsoring legislation that will exempt new and used bicycles and bicycle parts from sales and use taxes.

Bike Newport is an advocacy organization, and our mission is to help more people bike more often. Our values dictate a focus on equity, increasing the accessibility for Rhode Islanders to ride a bicycle for all uses. We work to remove barriers to biking based on income, location, culture, and mobility.

More people are turning to bikes for safe and healthy transportation, as well as recreation, exercise, exploration, and socializing. Bicycles are part of people's daily lives. Many who participate in Bike Newport's community programs and services depend heavily on bicycles. Whatever the reason – not owning a car, no viable transit available, carbon reduction goals, or personal preference – for many people, bicycles are the most dependable transportation option.

Luxury transportation such as boats and private planes are exempt from sales tax. Bicycles should be as well. Bicycles should be affordable and accessible to everyone. Tax-free status will incentivize residents to purchase and ride bicycles for their own enjoyment – while recognizing the value of bicycles to reducing harmful traffic congestion and vehicle emissions.

Repealing the sales tax on bikes will make these zero carbon vehicles more affordable and more accessible to everyone.

On behalf of the board, staff, supporters, and other participants at Bike Newport, I urge the committee to support H8197.

With thanks always for your service,  
Sincerely,

Bari Freeman, Executive Director