

Chris O'Brien

From: barry schiller <bschillert358@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, April 13, 2026 3:19 PM
To: House Finance Committee
Cc: Amy Joy Glidden; Rep. Handy, Arthur
Subject: support for H8197 from RI Transit Riders

Categories: Red category

Dear House Finance Committee

This is Barry Schiller writing on behalf of RI Transit Riders in support of bill H8197 that exempts sales of bicycles from the state sales tax.

We think this is a good idea to help people afford bicycles, which are by far the cleanest, cheapest, and quietest vehicle for getting around. With all the fixed route RIPTA buses having bike racks, and with MBTA commuter trains accepting bicycles on board, (except for rush hours) many transit riders are bicyclists too. Whether they travel this way because they are low income and cannot afford cars, or are motivated by having a minimal impact on the environment, either way they are climate champions and deserve a tax break that we note is already given to those buying boats or airplanes. The sales tax exemption can also attract bicycle sales to the state, and by helping our state's bicycle shops that would help to build the bike (and transit) culture here that we need to improve health, address climate change, and keep more of our energy dollars in the state.

We thank the sponsors and urge passage of H8197

We also thank the Committee for considering our views.

Barry Schiller
for RI Transit Riders

cc Rep Art Handy, sponsor
Amy Glidden, Chair, RI Transit Riders