

Chris O'Brien

From: Laura Luttrell <lluttre@rei.com>
Sent: Tuesday, April 14, 2026 10:24 AM
To: House Finance Committee
Subject: Letter of Support — Rhode Island Bike Path Bond Question (H8298)

Categories: Green category

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Laura Luttrell, Store Manager, REI Cranston
22 Chapel View Blvd
Cranston, RI 02920
4/14/26

Re: Letter of Support — Rhode Island Bike Path Bond Question (H8298)

Chairman Abney and Honorable Members of the House Finance Committee,

I am writing on behalf of the staff at REI Cranston to express our strong support for H8298, the proposed bond measure to fund the implementation of the Rhode Island Statewide Bicycle Mobility Plan and completion of bike paths across Rhode Island. It has been 8 years since we last included funding in our Green Bond, and when asked, voters overwhelmingly supported the investment, with 78.9% voting yes.

As an outdoor and bicycle retailer, we engage with hundreds of Rhode Islanders each year that are joyfully gearing up to ride on Rhode Island's numerous bike paths. The best part of outfitting new cyclists is sharing our favorite places to ride. The East Bay Bike Path, the Washington Secondary Trail, and the Blackstone River Bike Path are among our favorites. Rhode Islanders all have a favorite and take pride in this special way to experience the state. Bike Paths are a vital part of Rhode Islands tourism industry and Rhode Islander's physical and mental health. Recall how many people took to the bike paths during lock down? Rhode Islanders know those are special places and will always value them.

We urge the Committee to support H8298, adding this component to the Green Bond question in 2026 and give voters the opportunity to once again invest in bike paths and in Rhode Island's future — one that is healthier, greener, and more connected.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,
Laura Luttrell

Store Manager
REI Cranston
401-275-5250 lluttre@rei.com

 [Book time to meet with me](#)