

Chair Abney and Honorable Members of the Committee,

My name is Valerie Reishuk and I live in Providence. Majority Leader Blazejewski is my Representative. I write today in SUPPORT of H8315 Index Allocation to RIPTA to Inflation and Two-Year Inflation Rate, which is Rep Stewart's bill.

Through the tireless efforts of General Assembly members like Rep Jennifer Stewart, we RI Transit Riders have come to understand the erosion of transit funding, and its connection to bus service. I will not outline here how this affects riders like me, but I will emphasize that we need to expand transit options in Rhode Island in the coming years, not contract them.

Ocean State families know how to budget for transportation during these times of unpredictable gas prices, but they must have a public transit option for one or more family members if they are to stay within their budgets. This bill corrects a funding error and secures that option for families.

Let's continue to work towards expanding affordable housing—and providing bus service for those new apartment buildings. As Rhode Islanders move away from 100% reliance on car travel, we'll see traffic decrease and carbon emissions drop.

Let me express my gratitude to The Speaker, Leader Blazejewski, Deputy Speaker Hull, Chair Abney and all of the House public transit bill sponsors. You see me, you understand the housing-transit connection, and you consistently work with our RI Transit Rider advocates to find permanent funding solutions for RIPTA. I trust you to restore RIPTA funding and to plan for the future of RI transit.

Honorable Committee Members, please send H8315 Index Allocation to RIPTA along in the budget process with recommendation for passage.

Respectfully,
Val

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