

Dear Chair Abney and Honorable Members of the Committee:

My name is Pat Foley, I live in Edgewood, and I am writing in support of Bill H8317, Rep. Alzate's \$5M allocation to reverse RIPTA's service cuts. Please join me in supporting H8317 and restore the money cut last year from RIPTA's budget, which resulted in the largest service cutbacks in RIPTA history. I, and many of my fellow RIPTA riders have been significantly affected by the reduced service. I now only ride RIPTA infrequently and have had to resort to other means of transportation to travel around the state.

The service cuts have been devastating for tens of thousands of riders like me. Various sources have documented the drop in ridership and revenue for RIPTA - a result of less, and less convenient, service, which now creates a situation where further service reductions might result - accelerating a so-called "death spiral" for our state's public transit.

'Public Transit' is mentioned no less than 80 times in Rhode Island's own strategic plans for economic development, housing production, and climate. However, the service cuts have left RIPTA too small and crippled to even meet the needs of its existing riders, let alone expand to strengthen our state's competitiveness and livability.

That's why I'm urging you to support H8317. Without reversing RIPTA's devastating service cuts, RIPTA cannot meet the needs of a growing population that requires affordable and sustainable transportation, and RIPTA cannot grow to meet our climate, social justice, and economic goals.

Sincerely,

Pat Foley  
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