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February 26, 2024

The Honorable Robert E. Craven, Sr.
Chair, House Judiciary Committee
State House
Providence, RI 02903

RE: 2024 – H7568 - AN ACT RELATING TO MOTOR AND OTHER VEHICLES – MISCELLANEOUS RULES

Dear Chairperson Craven:

The RI Department of Transportation (RIDOT) offers this letter of support for 2024 – H7568.

RIDOT strongly supports all actions which serve to diminish distraction of drivers. The General Assembly passed the hand-held wireless legislation in 2017 and it was signed into law effective June 1, 2018. This law is necessary to prevent needless deaths and serious injuries on our roads. With the passage of H7568 we will strengthen and clarify the definition of “hands free” driving.

The National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA) reviewed 2023-H5701 and suggested language which assures RIDOT’s federal Distracted Driving funds will not be threatened. The current bill reflects that language and RIDOT fully supports this bill.

We thank the committee for their efforts and are available to answer any questions you may have.

Sincerely,

Peter Alviti, Jr., P.E.
Director, Rhode Island Department of Transportation

cc: The Honorable Members of the House Judiciary Committee
The Honorable Thomas E. Noret
Nicole McCarty, Chief Legal Counsel