



Mayor of Providence

Brett P. Smiley

The Honorable Robert E Craven Sr.  
House Judiciary Committee  
Rhode Island State House  
82 Smith St  
Providence RI, 2023

Dear Chairman Craven and Honorable Members of the Committee:

I write this letter in strong support of House Bill 7368—relating to motor and other vehicles—noise limits for motor vehicles. This legislation would allow municipalities to operate automated noise violation detection systems that monitor and detect violations of noise limits and utilize technology to enforce already existing laws.

In Providence, excessive noise is a major quality-of-life concern and something that we hear from neighbors about often. When recently surveyed, 40% of our residents said they are dissatisfied with the respect for noise ordinances in their community. That is supported by the 5,600 noise complaints received by the Providence Department just last year. These complaints came from all wards in our city and impacts the daily life of our taxpayers and our business community.

As a municipality, we have taken our own steps to increase enforcement and compliance of these laws by investing in the technology and training our public safety personnel needed to properly cite these violations. This legislation will allow communities to use available technology to supplement that work.

Throughout the country, other communities are facing problems with excessive noise and using similar solutions. Many have taken proactive steps to combat this problem by using noise violation detection systems, like cameras, to address the issue. New York City has expanded a successful pilot program and recently started issuing violations. Our neighbors in Newport have also used these tools to monitor noise violations and join Knoxville, Tennessee and Miami Beach Florida in exploring how we can use this technology to change behavior and reduce noise.

House Bill 7368 seeks to address the challenges of enforcing existing sound regulations and ultimately reduce excessive noise in our community. This legislation will allow Rhode Island communities to hold violators accountable by utilizing market available technology while also preserving law enforcement resources to respond to crimes of a more serious nature.

For these reasons, I strongly urge the committee to vote yes on House Bill 7368.

Sincerely,

  
Brett P. Smiley