

Dear Municipal Government and Housing Committee Members:

My name is Christopher McGoldrick and I write this letter as a resident of Rumford, a father of two young children, and an active participant in the voting process, to express my family's full-throated support of H-7658, which would prohibit commercial trucks with a gross weight rating of 26,001 pounds or more from traveling on Route 114 A, East Providence between Pawtucket Avenue and the Massachusetts state line.

My family, alongside many others in this community, support this bill largely on grounds of public safety. Specifically, that of our young children who on a daily basis spend time on this stretch of road waiting for their school bus. This portion of 114 A has no continuous sidewalk, nor a crosswalk or stop sign to help families commute in comfort and safety. Whether waiting for the school bus, visiting friends that live on the opposite of 114 A or walking the trails and grounds around Hunts Mill, crossing this street is needlessly risky for the many families with young children that live in this community.

It should also be mentioned that this particular portion of 114 A is entirely residential and is in some instances the site of historically significant structures. Structures that often literally tremble under the force associated with 53' semi-trucks traveling, very often, at speeds greatly in excess of the posted speed limit.

This community is sensitive to the commercial needs of the region, and to the imperative nature of free interstate transportation between Rhode Island and Massachusetts. This is why we feel so fortunate to have at our disposal an alternate route that involves the use of Taunton and Pawtucket Avenues, available at the negligible cost of .8 miles worth of time, fuel and supply-chain disruption to large trucking and similarly situated companies. Frankly, it strains credulity to think elected officials could even conceive of voting against this bill and prioritizing such meager business concerns over that of our children's safety.

We hope and trust that you feel similarly. And that the power of a shared valued system will win the debate, over arcane notions concerning what accommodations businesses should be expected to make for the privilege of utilizing taxpayer funded roadways.

On behalf of my family and our community, I thank you for the gesture of your consideration in this matter. We love Rhode Island, we love Rumford and we love our children. But we view the choice between accommodating interstate commerce and protecting our children to be entirely false. We hope your debate and eventual votes will be reflective of this position.

Respectfully,

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