

James Boyd  
130 Miller Avenue  
Rumford, RI 02916

April 1, 2024

In re: H 7658 - House Committee on Municipal Government & Housing

Dear Honorable Representatives,

I am writing in strong support of H 7658 being considered by your Committee that would prohibit commercial motor trucks, with a gross weight rating of twenty-six thousand one pounds (26,001 lbs.) or more, from traveling on Route 114 A, East Providence between Pawtucket Avenue and the Massachusetts state line. My wife and I have lived in the Rumford neighborhood immediately abutting Pleasant Street (Rte 114 A) for the past 23 years. I walk constantly, mornings and evenings, often 4-5 days per week along Pleasant Street and the adjoining trails of the Turner Reservoir and at Hunt's Mill, both of which are accessed directly from Pleasant Street.

With the completion of the replacement Pleasant Street Bridge by RIDOT in December of 2022, a resurgence of commercial truck traffic ensued along Rte 114 A and recently has become intolerable as a direct result of the Washington Bridge closure. An extremely heavy volume of commercial truck traffic, especially large semi-tractor trailers, along with a surge of additional vehicles now by-pass the Washington Bridge by exiting Rte I-195 westbound in Seekonk at Exit 1 and travel north on Rte 114 A to reach destinations in Providence, Pawtucket and elsewhere. The increased volume of heavy truck traffic has created dangerously unsafe conditions along Pleasant Street, especially if one needs to cross Pleasant Street on foot, as there is no well identified and marked pedestrian cross-walk with striping, signage and flashing lights. In addition, I have witnessed many vehicles, including heavy commercial trucks, dangerously exceeding the posted speed limit of 30 mph. Please note that this stretch of Rte 114 A is entirely residential, there are no continuous sidewalks, there is no pedestrian crosswalk (as noted above), there is a bus stop on this stretch of road for many young children, and it is a historic district with old homes that shake with the heavy commercial vehicle traffic.

There is a solution to resolve many of these identified problems by prohibiting commercial motor trucks, with a gross weight rating of twenty-six thousand one pounds (26,001 lbs.) or more, from traveling on Route 114 A, East Providence between Pawtucket Avenue and the Massachusetts state line. Moreover, heavy commercial truck traffic can easily by-pass this stretch of Rte 114 A by traveling on Taunton Ave (Rte 44) directly to Pawtucket Ave (Rte 114), an easily accessible detour of only 0.89 miles on roads that are two lanes in each direction (Rte 114 A is only one-lane in each direction) and that are designed and constructed to accommodate heavy commercial truck traffic.

I hope these personal observations are helpful and persuasive in your deliberations on this important bill. Please vote to move H 7658 out of Committee and onto the House floor for a vote to approve. Thank you very much for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

James Boyd