

April 2, 2024

Members of the House Committee on Municipal Government and Housing:

I would like to voice my support for H7658. I supported this bill last year prior to the governor's veto, and I remain strident in my backing. The governor's veto was unprecedented (previous truck limits have not required safety studies) and unnecessary (after a close reading of federal regulations). The recent closure of the Washington Bridge has only exacerbated the traffic woes as 114a has been deemed an alternative route, despite this being an entirely residential stretch of road without sidewalks or commercial business. I imagine many of you feel as I do that trust in the Department of Transportation has been scarred.

My support for this bill has been threefold: health, safety, as well as protecting our investment in this wonderful community (both our historic homes and the community's newly replaced bridge). Removing large commercial trucks will make the air cleaner, encourage more people to enjoy the natural beauty of Hunts Mill and the Turner Reservoir walking paths, and protect our homes from the earth shaking rumble of interstate commerce traveling through a bedroom community.

This section of Pleasant St. is a residential community designated as a National Register of Historic Places with many young families living along it. Yet, our community is used as a cut through by large commercial vehicle traversing from Interstate 95 in Pawtucket/Attleboro to Interstate 195 in Seekonk. While waiting at the bus stop in the afternoons on the corner of Sylvan Rd and Pleasant St, there are at least a half dozen large commercial vehicles that pass by within a 10-15 minute span while we are waiting for our dozen or so elementary age students to arrive. We require the help of the bus monitor to stop traffic to enable us to cross Pleasant St. This at times is nerve racking with the bulk and speed of commercial vehicles driving through.

Again, I want to express my support for H7658. Thank you for your consideration in this matter.

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