

**Marianne Kelly
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March 26, 2025

RE: House Bill No. 5960

ENTITLED, AN ACT RELATING TO HIGHWAYS -- ABANDONMENT BY TOWNS {LC925/1}

Dear Chairman Casey and members of the House Municipal Government and Housing Committee,

I am writing to you today in support of House Bill No. 5960, which would enable Rhode Island cities and towns to use abandoned town highways or drift ways as walking and hiking trails or biking trails.

Walking and bicycling promote physical and mental health. A livable community is one that includes public spaces for everyone. Policymakers on the federal, state, and local levels have important roles in designing livable communities where residents of all ages can participate fully.

House Bill 5960 provides for the very principles of a livable community by creating more recreational opportunities for residents. This bill enables municipalities to revitalize land that they already own, converting it to spaces that all residents can enjoy.

I am asking you today to vote in favor of House Bill 5960. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Marianne Kelly