

Dawn Huntley

From: Mélodie Pimentel <melodie@melodiepimen.tel>
Sent: Thursday, March 5, 2026 12:21 PM
To: House Municipal Government and Housing Committee
Subject: SUPPORT H8005 - Parking Minimums

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Dear Chairman Casey and Members of the Committee,

My name is **Mélodie Pimentel**. I live in East Providence (House District 65, represented by Rep. Dawson), where I volunteer with **East Providence in Community — EPiC**, a grassroots network of neighbors working to move our city and state forward. We are a group of neighbors who support more housing opportunities, reliable active transportation, and public transit.

Thus, I am writing in **support** of the proposed bill before you today, **H8005**, which would reform our antiquated **parking minimums**. This is an important step, as today's household requires fewer parking spaces as household sizes decrease, and as folks opt to commute more sustainably by utilizing public transit options and active transportation.

Additionally, this bill would make the best, most efficient use of our limited resources, allowing housing developments to devote more land to the housing units we desperately need, in addition to the potential for more green space — instead of the asphalt parking lots we are building today. I believe this bill would encourage transit oriented development, which would bring about multiple benefits: higher densities that bring in more tax revenue for cities and towns (on a per acre basis), less costly car infrastructure to maintain, and the ability to add housing units while minimizing the impact on traffic congestion in our neighborhoods.

In regard to the bill language, I urge the Committee to consider the proposed changes by Neighbors Welcome RI, in order to further the impact of this bill in addressing our housing crisis.

I thank the Committee for its time and consideration of my submitted testimony.

Best,

Mélodie Pimentel

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cc: Rep. Dawson <rep-dawson@rilegislature.gov>