

20 Lewis St.

Providence, RI 02906

March 24, 2026

House Committee on Municipal Government and Housing:

Rhode Island State House

82 Smith St

Providence, RI 02903

Dear Chairman Casey and Members of the Committee:

I am writing to ask you to amend H8012, the bill on camera monitoring for cars' pedestrian-safety offenses. I am a member of Rhode Islanders for Personal Privacy.

I have no objection to the goal of the bill, but the bill does not adequately prevent information gathered as a result of these cameras from being sold, rented and commercially used to profile drivers in ways that run against the driver's interests. The bill's main privacy provision says (page 7, line 3-6) "A municipality or a manufacturer or vendor of an automated road safety monitoring system may not use, disclose, sell or permit access to data collected by an automated road safety monitoring system, except as necessary to process camera enforceable violations in accordance with this chapter." That only applies to data directly collected by the monitoring system, not to further data derived from that which can be tied back to the individual driver or the driver's digital devices. Whenever a law only covers directly collected data and not derived data, it is toothless on privacy, because software engineers can do all the same things with derived data as with directly collected data.

The bill's privacy protections are worse than H8077, a bill which is very careful to have language that completely addresses the privacy issue about cameras that monitor driving events. It even risks overriding H8077. Unless the bill is amended to match H8077's language, I would oppose this bill.

Sincerely,

Randall Rose