

April 1, 2026

Chairman Louis P. DiPalma
Senate Committee on Finance
Rhode Island State House
Providence, RI

Re: SUPPORT of S2541 - to repeal the act authorizing toll facilities on state roads

Dear Chairman DiPalma and Honorable Committee Members:

RhodeWorks truck tolls were implemented in June, 2018 as an infrastructure funding program.

While the toll gantries were active (June, 2018 – September, 2022), the truck toll program took in \$96,228,218 in toll revenue and paid approximately \$73,753,259 in gantry operating costs to KapschTrafficCom. This netted the state \$22,474,959, or 23% of the toll revenue, for infrastructure works; again, through September, 2022.

The toll gantries were turned off and truck toll revenue stopped in September, 2022 with Judge William Smith's ruling. However, the state's spending on the toll program did not stop then. It continued into 2023 with another \$7,000,000 paid to Kapsch; per the state's Transparency Portal.

And the spending resumed in 2026. Rhode Island's total contractual obligation to Kapsch for toll gantry costs is now \$101,638,901 with the execution of a Contract Addendum in the amount of \$18,164,846 in January for Kapsch to "restore, stabilize and modernize" the gantry system.

The amount of that addendum has put the Rhode Island's truck toll program into the red by \$5,410,683. Truck toll program expenses of \$101,638,901 now exceed its revenue of \$96,228,218. This does not include the additional cost of upgrading the "back office" of the gantry system; estimated by RIDOT at \$10,000,000.

To reiterate, Rhode Island's truck toll program is currently in the red. And during the narrower period of its optimal performance, June, 2018 – September, 2022, **only 23% of its revenue went into infrastructure and 77% went to its expenses.**

In short, the RhodeWorks truck toll program has proven to be a remarkably ineffective, wasteful way to fund the state's infrastructure. Accordingly, I would respectfully ask that the committee and the full Senate vote Yes on S2541.

Thank you for your consideration.

Monique Chartier
South Kingstown, RI