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**From:** Nick Rutter <nickrutter0@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Thursday, April 2, 2026 7:26 AM  
**To:** Senate Finance  
**Subject:** Subject Line: SUPPORT (S2668) - Motor Fuel Tax Allocation to RIPTA

You don't often get email from nickrutter0@gmail.com. [Learn why this is important](#)

Dear Chair DiPalma and Committee members, My name is Nick Rutter, I live in Smithfield, and I am writing in support of S2668, Senator Zurier's gas tax inflation indexing bill. I primarily use RIPTA for recreation and civic engagement, and I am in the process of asking my employer, Charcuterie Artisans in Pascoag, to join to WAVE to Work Program so that myself and my coworkers have another choice in how we get to work. Even in the midst of budgetary woes, RIPTA has managed to expand specific routes like the QX to Quonset, the 10X to Amazon and the R-1636 shuttle for RIFC games. While these expansions are a step in the right direction, the lack of RIPTA's financial ability to expand its overall service on its own is hampering our state's ability to be economically resilient in trying times. I commend the Senate for taking the initiative to allocate a greater share of the gasoline tax to help close RIPTA's fiscal cliff the previous year; like these route expansions, it's a step in the right direction and there are clearly positive results from this action. But in order to put RIPTA in a position to grow and expand, the share of the gas tax must be indexed to the rate of inflation so its funding remains level and service remains consistent, which will retain and attract ridership, instead of being subject to a cyclical death spiral for lack of funds. Please finish out the route and support S2668 so RIPTA maintains a fair share of the gas tax to reflect the benefits they bring to the state.

Sincerely,  
Nick Rutter  
12 Howard Street Smithfield RI 02917