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From: Susan Marcus <marcus.susan@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, March 31, 2026 11:32 AM
To: Senate Finance
Subject: SUPPORT (S2668) - Motor Fuel Tax Allocation to RIPTA

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Dear Chair DiPalma and Honorable Committee members,

My name is Susan Marcus. I live in South Kingstown. I am writing in support of S2668, Senator Zurier's gas tax inflation indexing bill.

I am retired from a career in economic development in an international organization. I would like to see Rhode Island legislators take advantage of the economic opportunities afforded by investing sustainably in public transit, something they currently neglect. Public transit is a formidable job creator. Transit projects produced many more jobs per dollar than road projects. This bill acknowledges that public transit deserves a greater percentage of the gas tax as a mechanism for long-term funding.

RIPTA's current funding is closely tied to the state's gasoline tax. Over the last decade, RIPTA was shortchanged by \$7 million annually because its 9.75 cent allocation did not keep pace with the overall increase in the gas tax, which has risen from 32.5 cents to 38 cents per gallon, including an environmental fee. This missing \$7 million was essential to address RIPTA's fiscal cliff last year, and I thank you and your colleagues for addressing this discrepancy by allocating an additional 2 cents of the gas tax to RIPTA in real, long term funding.

However, this additional allocation is still not indexed to inflation. Absent legislative action, RIPTA's financial path is still not sustainable.

With S2668, we have an opportunity to create a more predictable funding source for public transit in Rhode Island that will not shrink steadily over time. I urge you to support S2668, to give RIPTA a permanently fair share of the Motor Fuel Tax and support the riders who rely on the service.

Sincerely,

Susan Marcus
468 Post Road
Wakefield, RI 02879

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<http://meadowrestoration.wordpress.com>