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From: Nick Rutter <nickrutter0@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, April 2, 2026 6:58 AM
To: Senate Finance
Subject: SUPPORT (S3013) - Car Inspection Fee Increase

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Dear Chair DiPalma (Senate)and Committee members,

My name is Nick Rutter, I live in Smithfield, and I am writing in support of Bill S3013.

While I am trying to reduce my car usage, I still realize the importance of maintaining roadways for all road users, as well as to help independent mechanics stay solvent in the face of increasing vertical integration from dealerships. Having smaller mechanics within reasonable walking or biking distance facilitates keeping me mobile while work is being done on my car, and having an increase in inspection fees will help keep these mechanics solvent and prices competitive. The influx of highway maintenance projects combined with four years with no state car tax, declining gas tax revenue, tempermental federal government and ten years without an inspection fee increase has clearly put a strain on our DOT economically, which in turn has shifted the pressure to RIPTA's budget as a means of deflection. We need diversified income for both agencies to continue to serve the needs of Rhode Islanders, especially if that means funding a robust economically viable alternative to owning, leasing or hiring a personal vehicle.

Please have the political courage to support Senator Vargas' S3013 to increase revenue from car inspections, which will help keep RIPTA, independent mechanics and our roads solvent for the future, which is a better long term outcome economically.

Sincerely,

Nick Rutter
12 Howard Street Smithfield, RI 02917