

April 2, 2026

To Chair DiPalma and Honorable Members of the Senate Finance Committee,

My name is Susan Killenberg. I am a resident of Little Compton.

I am writing in support of Senate Bills S-2825 (\$5 Million Budget Allocation to RIPTA), S-2095 (Increase RIPTA's Share of the Highway Maintenance Fund) and S-3084 (Ride Share Sales Tax Re-allocation).

Prior to the pandemic (and my ability to work remotely), I commuted daily to my office in Providence on RIPTA bus route #61X. I caught the bus at the Tiverton Park-and-Ride and was dropped off at Exchange Plaza, steps away from my office on Fountain Street. It was a convenient, reliable, safe, comfortable, affordable and climate-conscious way to get to and from work each day.

Over the past year, RIPTA suffered devastating budget cuts resulting in a reduction in services. The Senate bills under review tonight would restore funding and bolster RIPTA services statewide. This funding is essential to meet the travel needs of our population. Robust public transportation ensures that employees, students, and families, especially those with lower incomes, can access affordable transportation, reducing the burden of expensive gas, parking, car insurance and auto maintenance.

Fully-funded RIPTA services would also improve Rhode Island's competitiveness as a business-friendly and climate-friendly destination. A state that offers its citizens reliable and affordable public transportation will attract and retain a more diverse and skilled talent pool.

I urge you to support Senate bills 2825, 2095 and 3084. These bills will give Rhode Islanders access to reliable and affordable public transportation, reduce highway congestion and fossil fuel emissions, and grow the base of ridership for public transit.

Sincerely,

Susan Killenberg

Little Compton, RI