



Office of Chair Burke  
Senate Committee on Labor & Gaming  
82 Smith Street  
Providence, Rhode Island 02903

March 3, 2026

Subject: Letter of **Support for Rhode Island S2323** - Commuter Transportation Benefits Act

Dear Chair Burke and Committee members,

**I am writing to express my strong support for Senate Bill 2323, the "Commuter Transportation Benefits Act."**

As Board President of the Patriot Chapter of the Association for Commuter Transportation (ACT), our organization is the premier professional association and leading voice in the Transportation Demand Management (TDM) field. Our members—including employers, consultants, and public agency staff—are on the front lines of implementing and managing commuter benefit programs across the country. Through this work, we have seen the significant positive impact these programs have on employees, businesses, and communities.

This legislation, which mandates employers with five hundred or more employees to establish a pre-tax commuter transportation benefit program, is a vital step for Rhode Island. Implementing S2323 is an investment in the state's economy, environment, and workforce well-being.

S2323 is in Rhode Island's best interest for several reasons.

### **1. Financial Benefits for Workers and Businesses**

The bill leverages the federal tax code, allowing employees to use pre-tax dollars for transit and parking. This saves employees, on average, 30% on their commute, increasing their net disposable income and aiding recruitment/retention. Employers also save by reducing FICA and payroll taxes by at least 7.65% of the commute value. This is a win-win scenario that requires no state funding.

### **2. Supporting Sustainable Infrastructure**

By making public transit and vanpooling more affordable, S2323 encourages fewer people to drive alone. The resulting decrease in vehicle miles traveled alleviates traffic congestion, saves



commuters time, boosts productivity, and quantifiably reduces emissions, directly supporting the state's environmental goals.

### **3. Promoting Economic and Social Equity**

High transportation costs disproportionately affect low- and moderate-income workers. This legislation ensures equitable access to reliable and affordable commuting options, better connecting workers to job centers and fostering greater economic mobility.

### **4. Adopting Proven, Progressive Policy**

Similar legislation has been successfully implemented in major cities like New York, Washington D.C., and San Francisco. By adopting S2323, Rhode Island positions itself as a progressive leader committed to sustainable urban planning and modern workforce benefits, aligning with national best practices.

**I urge you to support and pass S2323.** It is a smart, cost-effective policy delivering immediate and long-term benefits to the people and infrastructure of Rhode Island.

Sincerely,

*Kaylei Verrill*

Kaylei Verrill, Board President

Patriot Chapter, Association for Commuter Transportation