



DONALD R. GREBIEN
MAYOR



April 3, 2025

The Honorable Marvin L. Abney
Chair
House Finance Committee
State House
Providence, RI

RE: Support for 25-H 5314

Dear Representative Abney:

I am writing in support of 25-H 5314, AN ACT RELATING TO TAXATION – THE PARKING SERVICES TAXATION ACT, which would authorize cities and towns to charge a parking services sales tax on parking lots and structures that charge for parking services through an ordinance.

For many years cities and towns have explored creative solutions to revenue sources beyond the property tax to properly manage our cities and towns. From those discussions, cities and towns now have the 1% food and beverage tax and the elimination of the auto tax with reimbursement from the state. These revenues, which come from less regressive sales and income taxes, are a boon to home and business owners, as well as our most vulnerable populations. This bill could provide some additional revenue without adding to the regressive property tax burden.

In Pawtucket, we are experiencing a period of growth from the new professional soccer complex to the transit-oriented development around the new train stop and throughout the city. It's all very positive. However, with the growth comes a need for added services and the concomitant need for revenues to pay for them. We cannot rely solely on property taxes to provide the revenue. Some must come from other sources. While this legislation won't solve our current revenue needs, it could provide some long-term revenue. For these reasons, I am asking for your support.

Thank you for your consideration regarding this legislation.

Sincerely,

Donald R. Grebien
Mayor