



STATE OF RHODE ISLAND
OFFICE OF GOVERNOR DANIEL J. MCKEE

January 17, 2024

The Honorable Karen Alzate
Chairwoman, House Committee on Special Legislation
Room 35, Rhode Island State House
Providence, RI 02903

RE: 2024-H 7114: An Act Relating to Motor Vehicles – Registration of Vehicles

Dear Chairwoman Alzate:

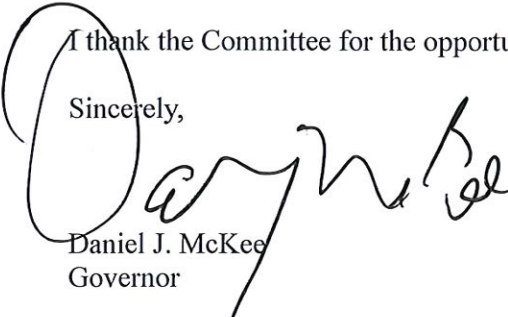
I offer my support of House Bill 7114, sponsored by Representative Lauren Carson, which would authorize the Division of Motor Vehicles to issue special charity license plates in recognition and support of the Newport Festivals Foundation, Inc. Through the creation of these new plates, this bill honors the legacy of the late George Wein, founder of the Newport Festivals Foundation.

The Newport Festivals Foundations' world-renowned Newport Jazz and Folk Festivals support hundreds of jobs, bring in approximately ten thousand tourists per day, and promote environmental sustainability in the events industry. Moreover, the festivals generate millions of dollars in economic activity to support our local businesses and economies.

For over sixty-five years, the Newport Festivals Foundation has supported music education and musicians across our state. Their work serves as a powerful reminder that music can change lives. Through music lessons for Aquidneck Island youth, donated instruments, afterschool programs, and more, the Newport Festivals Foundation has both showcased and nurtured Newport's rich music history. Under this bill, funds generated through the purchase of these special plates would help support needed investments in the arts and raise awareness about the efforts of an organization that is invaluable in telling the story of Rhode Island.

I thank the Committee for the opportunity to extend my support of this bill.

Sincerely,


Daniel J. McKee
Governor

CC: The Honorable Members of the House Committee on Special Legislation
The Honorable Representative Lauren Carson
Nicole McCarty, Esq., Chief Legal Counsel