

Dear Chair Lanpher and Vice Chair Shaw,

On behalf of the Vermont Public Transportation Association (VPTA), thank you for the opportunity to provide comments to the House Transportation Committee on Section 16 of H.736 as passed by the Senate. It is VPTA's understanding that Section 16 provides one-time money to Green Mountain Transit (GMT) and flexibility to GMT to address continued zero fare service and continued operation of its routes. The VPTA supports granting this flexibility to GMT, and further supports the written comments of GMT to your Committee dated April 25, 2022.

VPTA strongly supports the recommended budget from the Agency of Transportation for FY23 that supports continued zero fare service in all the rural service territories. As transit providers continue to address issues presented by the ongoing pandemic, this remains the right time to provide zero fare service throughout our rural systems. Finally, the ridership report also contained in Section 16 will provide additional data to help guide future policy decisions at the local and State level in fiscal years 2024 and beyond.

Thank you again for your continued support of public transit. Please let me know if you have any questions or need any additional information.

Jim

Jim Moulton (he/him/his)  
Executive Director



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