

Prudence Island Planning Commission

P.O. box 136 Prudence Island, RI 02872

January 16, 2005

Clerk
Public Utilities Commission
89 Jefferson Boulevard
Warwick, RI 02888

RE: Prudence Ferry

The Prudence Island Planning Commission met in a public meeting January 15, 2005, and voted unanimously to oppose the December 23, 2004 request by the Prudence Ferry to change tariff Schedule A: requiring a "Rhode Island driver's license with a Prudence Island address (zip code 02872)...[to purchase] commuter tickets."

Many commuters, whose primary residence is not on the Island, must use the Prudence Ferry to regularly travel to and from the Island.

The Island depends on mainlanders commuting to the island:

- The schoolteacher comes to the Island School each day.
- The nurse from the VNS provides home care a day or more each week.
- The town highway staff commutes each day.
- Electricians, plumbers, and carpenters come to the island to work daily.

Many Islanders who live on the Island for less than 12 months a year commute to the island:

- Some live here during the summer, and must use the ferry regularly to go to the mainland to work.
- Some live here from Friday through Sunday each week, and so use the ferry two or more times each weekend.
- Some who live here year around and maintain a partments or houses on the mainland must commute regularly.

Commuters are diverse, and the Prudence Ferry's proposal to insist that each have a driver's license with a 02872 zip code unfairly discriminates against many persons legitimately commuting. Many commuters, for various reasons, will never have an Island address on a driver's license. Denying these commuters a commuter ticket and requiring them to pay the one-way single fare will unfairly increase their commuting expenses.

If you wish further testimony about the deleterious effects of the proposed change, the Prudence Island Planning Commission will schedule a public meeting of the Planning Commission and invite a representative of the Public Utilities Commission to attend.

You may contact me at 401-965-2043 or PIPlanCom@aol.com.

Sincerely Yours,

Harry Sterling
Chairperson,
Prudence Island Planning Commission