

March 12, 2025

The Honorable David A. Bennett, Chair
House Environment and Natural Resources Committee
Rhode Island House of Representatives
82 Smith Street
Providence, RI 02903

RE: BILL NUMBER H-5293 – RELATING TO HEALTH AND SAFETY

Chair Bennett and Honorable Members of the Committee,

On behalf of the Rhode Island League of Cities and Towns, I write to express our support for House Bill 5293, which seeks to establish a public education outreach program to inform residential households and commercial businesses on the value of and proper methods for recycling textiles in Rhode Island.

Textile waste is a significant and growing issue in our state, contributing to increased landfill usage and environmental concerns. Many municipalities face challenges in managing textile disposal, as improperly discarded textiles add to the waste stream, increasing costs for local governments and limiting landfill capacity. By implementing an education program, H-5293 will help municipalities, businesses, and residents better understand how to recycle textiles effectively, thus reducing waste and improving sustainability efforts.

We particularly appreciate the inclusion of an online directory and the potential for a recycling assistance program. These resources will be valuable tools for guiding municipalities, residents, and businesses in finding appropriate avenues for textile recycling. Additionally, this initiative aligns with broader sustainability goals, fostering collaboration among stakeholders to promote responsible waste management practices.

The League supports this effort as it provides a practical and proactive solution to a pressing municipal concern. By increasing public awareness and access to textile recycling resources, H-5293 will not only help alleviate textile waste but also contribute to a more efficient and environmentally conscious waste management system statewide.

We thank the bill sponsors for their leadership on this important issue and urge the committee's favorable consideration of H-5293. Please feel free to reach out if the League can provide further insight or support on this matter.

Thank you for your time and consideration of our perspective.

Sincerely,



Charles J. Donovan Jr.
Associate Director

Cc: Honorable Members of House Environment and Natural Resources Committee