

**Chris O'Brien**

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**From:** Liza Burkin <lizaburkin@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, February 27, 2024 8:45 PM  
**To:** House Finance Committee  
**Subject:** Support for H-7225, Article 5, Question 3

Dear Chairman Abney and Members of the House Committee on Finance,

I am writing today in support of Article 5, Question 3 in the Governor's proposed budget. This question proposes \$100 million to increase affordable and middle income housing production and infrastructure, support community revitalization, and promote homeownership. I strongly urge the Committee to recommend **increasing the proposed bond item to \$150 million** (over two years) to support affordable housing production and preservation for low and moderate income households.

Massachusetts is considering a [\\$4.1 billion housing bond](#) to address their housing crisis. \$100 million will not produce a meaningful amount of new units to address ours.

According to HousingWorksRI, Rhode Island has a shortage of roughly **24,000** rental homes that are affordable and available to households who are extremely low income. With today's high construction costs, \$100 million can only produce about **850** apartments.

This is why I strongly urge the Committee to support this budget article and consider increasing the proposed amount to **at least \$150 million** to produce and preserve affordable homes for low and moderate income Rhode Islanders.

With gratitude and hope,

Liza Burkin  
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