



May 7th, 2025

Representative Marvin L. Abney
Chair, House Committee on Finance
Room 35
Rhode Island State House
Providence, RI 02903

RE: House Bill 5076— New Article— Governor’s Budget Amendment #12

Dear Chairman Abney,

I am the Government Affairs Director for the International Union of Painters and Allied Trades, District Council 11. (IUPAT DC 11) We represent hundreds of working families here in the state of Rhode Island in a variety of finishing crafts.

We are writing in strong **SUPPORT** for H-5076 Governor’s Budget Amendment # 12.

The proposed amendment would make substantial changes to R.I. General Law to execute the recommendations of the 2024 Housing Organizational Report issued by the Department of Housing.

Rhode Island is currently in the midst of a housing crisis, one that our existing housing institutions—with overlapping responsibilities and lack of clear lines of authority—are ill equipped to address.

This Amendment consolidates housing policy and programming functions in a new Executive Office of Housing. These powers and responsibilities currently reside in unelected and quasi-public agencies where they do not belong.

The Housing Resources Commission’s (HRC) is not the appropriate institution to set housing policy, create programs, or allocate funding.

Rhode Island Housing and Mortgage Finance Corporation (RIHousing) is a housing finance agency and as such should be in the business of loaning money, not setting housing policy.

Aligning housing-related functions in the executive branch would bring housing policy more in line with the realities of our constitutional system of government and add much needed accountability and oversight.

**International Union of Painters and Allied Trades
District Council 11**

269 Macklin St. Cranston, RI 02920
P: (401)-467-7010; F: (401)-467-7075
www.iupatdc11.com

For the above reason's **IUPAT DC 11** is in full support of HB 5076, and we urge the Rhode Island House of Representatives to pass this important amendment. Please do not hesitate to follow up with any additional questions you, or the committee, may have on this legislation.

Sincerely,
Justin Kelley (jkelley@iupatdc11.com)

Justin Kelley

Business Representative/ Government Affairs Director
District Council 11, International Union of Painters and Allied Trades

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