



**RHODE ISLAND LEAGUE
OF CITIES AND TOWNS**

*Distinctive Communities
Powerful Alliance*

March 5, 2026

The Honorable Marvin L. Abney, Chair
House Finance Committee
Rhode Island House
82 Smith Street
Providence, RI 02903

RE: HOUSE BUDGET BILL 7126 – ARTICLE 3 SECTION 3 – DEFINITIONS, ADMINISTRATION AND REPORTS

Chair Abney and Honorable Committee Members,

On behalf of the Rhode Island League of Cities and Towns, we respectfully submit testimony in support of Article 3, Section 3 of House Budget Bill 7126, which transfers responsibility for the Green Buildings Advisory Committee from the Department of Administration to the Office of the State Building Code Commissioner, effective July 1, 2026.

The League supports this transfer because the Office of the State Building Code Commissioner is the entity most directly responsible for building standards, code adoption, code enforcement oversight, and technical guidance to municipalities. Aligning the Green Buildings Advisory Committee within this office places the program in a structure that is operationally and professionally suited to its subject matter.

Municipalities interact regularly with the State Building Code Office on matters involving construction standards, permitting frameworks, inspections, and code interpretation. Housing the Green Buildings Advisory Committee within that office creates greater policy coherence, reduces administrative fragmentation, and strengthens the connection between green building standards and the existing building code framework.

Importantly, the legislation provides for an orderly transition. Existing rules and regulations will remain in full force and effect and continue to be enforced by the Department of Administration until properly transferred and promulgated by the Office of the State Building Code Commissioner. This ensures continuity, avoids regulatory gaps, and provides clarity to municipalities and stakeholders during the transition period.

From a municipal perspective, placing green building policy within the office that already oversees code-related matters improves coordination, technical alignment, and long-term implementation. It reflects a logical administrative structure that better matches expertise with responsibility.

Thank you for the opportunity to present our perspective and for your continued partnership with Rhode Island's cities and towns.

Sincerely,

Randy R. Rossi
Executive Director

Cc: Honorable Members of House Finance Committee