



April 13, 2026

The Honorable Marvin Abney
Chair, House Finance Committee
82 Smith Street, Providence, RI 02903

Dear Chair Abney and members of the Committee:

I write to express RIHousing's strong support for the proposed \$200,000 appropriation to the Housing Network of Rhode Island (HNRI) to strengthen community development capacity and improve coordination across the housing and homelessness response system.

RIHousing is the Housing Finance Agency for the State of Rhode Island. In that role we provide mortgages to help first-time homebuyers purchase a home and finance the development and preservation of affordable and mixed-income housing. In 2025 alone, RIHousing financed the production or preservation of 1,183 homes, investing \$429 million into Rhode Island communities. RIHousing also administers over \$293 million in federal rental assistance for over 17,000 households annually.

Under House leadership, Rhode Island has taken meaningful and commendable steps in recent years to address the housing crisis, including significantly increasing investments in affordable housing production and preservation and adopting land use and zoning reforms to reduce barriers to development. These advancements have laid the groundwork for a significant, and much needed increase in housing production in Rhode Island.

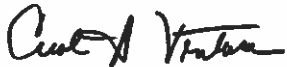
The HNRI is uniquely positioned to help municipalities and nonprofit affordable housing developers harness these new tools and resources to build a strong development pipeline that meets housing needs at the local level. The HNRI and affiliated nonprofit, the Community Housing Land Trust of Rhode Island, provide technical assistance, training, and educational resources to local stakeholders, helping organizations, municipalities, and partners build the knowledge and capacity needed to effectively develop, preserve, and support affordable housing. They also have a strong track record of helping to build the capacity of their nonprofit community development members and connecting them to municipalities interested in community driven affordable housing projects.

This appropriation would help to support this important work at a critical time, as the resources and opportunities for implementing new development models are changing but the need for housing continues to grow. I respectfully urge the Committee to support this appropriation. It is a modest investment with the potential for significant statewide impact—strengthening housing development

organizations, improving system performance, and helping more Rhode Islanders access and maintain stable housing.

Thank you for your leadership and your commitment to addressing Rhode Island's housing challenges.

Sincerely,



Carol Ventura
Executive Director

CC: Honorable K. Joseph Shekarchi, House Speaker
Lynne Urbani, Director of Policy, Office of the Speaker