



**RHODE ISLAND LEAGUE
OF CITIES AND TOWNS**

*Distinctive Communities
Powerful Alliance*

June 2, 2026

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

RE: HOUSE BILL 7824 - AN ACT RELATING TO PUBLIC UTILITIES AND CARRIERS -- DUTIES OF UTILITIES AND CARRIERS

Chair Abney and Honorable Committee Members,

On behalf of the Rhode Island League of Cities and Towns, representing all 39 municipalities in Rhode Island, we respectfully submit testimony expressing concerns regarding House Bill 7824.

Rhode Island cities and towns are responsible for maintaining and improving a wide range of critical public infrastructure, including roads, water systems, wastewater facilities, public buildings, and other essential municipal assets. Meeting these obligations requires access to stable, affordable, and flexible financing tools that enable municipalities to address infrastructure needs while minimizing costs.

The Rhode Island Infrastructure Bank has long served as a valuable partner to municipalities, helping communities access financing for a variety of infrastructure needs. Through its financing programs and technical assistance, communities throughout the state have been able to undertake projects that generate long-term public benefits while managing costs in a fiscally responsible manner.

Cities and Towns throughout Rhode Island have utilized Infrastructure Bank financing to advance energy efficiency, clean energy, and other infrastructure projects that generate long-term savings and public benefits. Many communities continue to evaluate similar investments, and the League is concerned that changes affecting the availability of these financing resources could limit municipalities' ability to pursue projects that improve public infrastructure while helping to control costs for local taxpayers and ratepayers.

The League is concerned that the changes proposed could adversely affect the availability, flexibility, or effectiveness of financing resources that municipalities have come to rely upon. Any reduction in access to cost-effective financing could limit local governments' ability to pursue needed infrastructure investments, increase project costs, and ultimately place additional financial burdens on local taxpayers and utility ratepayers.

At a time when municipalities are facing increasing infrastructure demands and continuing fiscal pressures, preserving reliable financing options remains critically important. The League respectfully encourages the Committee to carefully consider the potential impacts of House Bill 7824 on municipal infrastructure planning, project affordability, and long-term local financial sustainability.

Thank you for your time and consideration of our perspective.

Sincerely,

Randy R. Rossi
Executive Director

Cc: Honorable Members of House Finance Committee