

March 25, 2025

Dear Chairperson and Members of the House Judiciary Committee,

My name is Aidan Murray and I live with my mom in Warwick. I'm also a junior in college studying public policy. I'm in Philadelphia during the school year for college, but am interested in returning to Rhode Island when I graduate in 2026. But right now the rising costs of everything are making me nervous, and especially housing. It will be hard for me to afford an apartment or to buy a house anytime soon, and that is one reason why H 5299 is important: It will help to keep existing, affordable housing available for hundreds of families - of all ages and income levels - who live on leased land in Rhode Island, now and in the future.

The neighborhood where we live, Gaspee Point, has a homeowners association, but its members are volunteers, with limited resources and expertise, and no staff. As others have stated, they will struggle to navigate the legal and financial barriers, making it difficult to secure ownership of the leased land provided for in this chapter. **H 5299 directly addresses this issue by directing Rhode Island Housing, the Infrastructure Bank and other appropriate public and private entities to investigate and remove obstacles that prevent homeowners from exercising their right of first refusal.**

Please support this important legislation for all Rhode Islanders.

Sincerely,
Aidan Murray