



March 26, 2026

The Honorable Carol Hagan McEntee
Chair, House Judiciary Committee
Rhode Island State House
Providence, Rhode Island 02903

Re: House bill 8004

Dear Chair McEntee, First Vice Chair Knight, Second Vice Chair Dawson, and Distinguished Committee Members,

The Rhode Island Housing and Mortgage Finance Corporation (“RIHousing”) is pleased to testify in support of House Bill 8004, *An Act Relating to Towns and Cities – Rhode Island Comprehensive Planning and Use Act*. This legislation provides technical amendments related to comprehensive planning and land use, subdivision of land, zoning ordinances and low- and moderate-income housing.

RIHousing is grateful for the leadership that Speaker Shekarchi and other General Assembly members have shown in continuing to make housing a top priority for the state. The General Assembly has been a key partner to help address the state’s critical shortage of affordable housing. We are proud to support those efforts through our membership on the Low- and Moderate-Income Housing Commission and through the implementation of approved programs and policies.

This bill includes an important and timely set of technical and procedural amendments that will improve the implementation of previously passed changes to Rhode Island’s land-use, zoning, and subdivision laws.

Rhode Island continues to face significant housing shortages, and these clarifications will help municipalities implement previous land use law changes effectively and efficiently. We believe this bill, in conjunction with the other bills in the Speaker’s housing package, will continue the General Assembly’s work to resolve the housing crisis by addressing some of the challenges that are slowing housing production in our state.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Carol Ventura". The signature is fluid and cursive.

Carol Ventura
Executive Director, RIHousing