



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

March 26, 2026

RE: Support for H8004 (Comprehensive Planning and Land Use Act)

Dear Chairwoman McEntee and Members of the Committee:

Neighbors Welcome! Rhode Island (“Neighbors Welcome”) is a 501(c)(4) nonprofit and network of neighbors advocating for more homes in Rhode Island. Our goal is to promote strong and sustainable housing production so that residents across the state, at every stage of life, have housing options that meet their needs.

We are writing today in support of H8004, which proposes critical technical amendments to RI’s Comprehensive Planning and Land Use Act. These technical fixes ensure clear and consistent implementation of planning and land use regulations.

As Rhode Island works to address its housing shortage, clarifying and streamlining the state’s zoning and land use enabling act is critical to moving new units through the regulatory process in an efficient manner. These technical amendments will support bringing new homes online faster.

This bill addresses several challenges, including:

- Simplifying required findings for administrative subdivisions, and preventing onerous survey requirements;
- Shortening preliminary plan approval timelines for minor subdivisions, and prevents the recategorization of minor projects to major projects; and
- Adjusts vesting periods to provide certainty for new homes.

We thank Speaker Shekarchi and Representative Craven for their dedication to addressing the housing shortage and the members of the Committee for hearing this bill today. Neighbors Welcome respectfully urges the Committee to support H8004, and advance policies that minimize the regulatory hurdles to getting more homes built.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Kristina Brown", written in a cursive style.

Kristina Brown | Executive Director | Neighbors Welcome! Rhode Island