

OFFICE OF THE MAYOR
WOONSOCKET, RHODE ISLAND

March 25, 2026

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

RE: Support for House Bill 8101 – Abandoned Property

Dear Chair McEntee, First Vice Chair Knight, Second Vice Chair Dawson, and Members of the House Judiciary Committee:

On behalf of the City of Woonsocket, I write in strong support of House Bill 8101, An Act Relating to Property - Abandoned Property.

This legislation provides necessary and thoughtful updates to Rhode Island's Abandoned Property Act, helping ensure that it is used as intended: to address truly abandoned, unsafe, and nuisance properties while protecting responsible property owners from unwarranted action.

The Abandoned Property Act is a critical tool for municipalities working to stabilize neighborhoods and address blight. However, the absence of clear statutory standards has, in some cases, led to its misuse, allowing properties without code violations or legitimate public safety concerns to be drawn into the process. This undermines confidence in the law and diverts resources from addressing properties that genuinely pose a risk to the community.

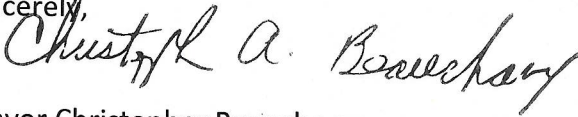
House Bill 8101 strengthens due process protections, requires clear and documented evidence of violations, and clarifies key definitions to prevent misapplication. These improvements ensure that enforcement efforts remain focused, fair, and effective.

For Woonsocket, these reforms are especially important as we continue our work to revitalize neighborhoods while supporting homeowners who are maintaining their

properties responsibly. Clear standards will allow us to more effectively target truly distressed properties, improve quality of life for residents, and preserve trust between the City and the community.

We respectfully urge the Committee to support House Bill 8101.

Sincerely,



Mayor Christopher Beauchamp
City of Woonsocket