



April 30, 2026

The Honorable Arthur Corvese
Chair, House Labor Committee
Rhode Island State House
Providence, Rhode Island 02903

Re: House Bill 8465

Dear Chair Corvese, First Vice Chair Messier, Second Vice Chair Alzate and Distinguished Committee Members,

The Rhode Island Housing and Mortgage Finance Corporation (“RIHousing”) respectfully raises concerns about House Bill 8465, *An Act Relating to Public Property and Works – State Purchases*, which amends a section of state purchasing law dealing with public works renovation or construction projects involving glass glazing work.

For this section of the state purchasing law, HB8465 revises the definition of “public works project” to include any project that is financed, executed, managed, or contracted by the state, its departments, agencies, authorities, public corporations, quasi-public corporations, municipalities, school committees, or other political subdivisions. This is significantly different from the definition set forth in RIGL 37-13-1, which defines public works as “any public work consisting of grading, clearing, demolition, improvement, completion, repair, alteration, or construction of any public road or any bridge, or portion thereof, or any public building, or portion thereof, or any heavy construction, or any public works projects of any nature or kind whatsoever.” Importantly, the existing definition focuses on the public nature of the facility being renovated or constructed, not on the source of financing or the entity contracting for the work. That definition has also been upheld in court cases where the court has stated that their main considerations when assessing if a project falls under “public works” are whether or not the building is open to the general public and the nature and use of the building as opposed to the source of funding used to construct it.

RIHousing is concerned that this expanded definition would, for the first time, result in affordable and mixed-income housing developments that include State or RIHousing administered financing being defined as public works. This expansion would create challenges for the developments we finance and set a dangerous new precedent for what is considered public works in the State.

For these reasons we respectfully oppose this legislation as written.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Carol Ventura".

Carol Ventura
Executive Director