



February 1, 2024

The Honorable Stephen M. Casey  
Chairman, House Municipal Government Committee  
Rhode Island State House  
Providence, RI 02903

**RE: House Bill Number: H7062 Relating to Towns and Cities – Zoning Ordinances**

Dear Chair Casey and Honorable Committee Members,

On behalf of the Rhode Island League of Cities and Towns, I am writing to express our general support for House Legislation H7062 regarding Accessory Dwelling Units (ADUs) sponsored by Representative June Speakman. We wish to extend our sincere appreciation to Speaker Shekarchi for his early recognition of the importance of the housing issue and its significant impact on the State of Rhode Island as a whole. Our gratitude also extends to Chairwoman June Speakman and the esteemed members of the Special Legislative Commission to Study Housing Affordability. The time and hard work invested by the commission members is commendable and we are grateful for the comprehensive approach taken to address the state's housing challenges. The collaboration displayed by all stakeholders involved in the committee is truly encouraging and we commend the commitment to finding solutions that respect the autonomy of local municipalities while addressing community needs.

In order to address the state's housing shortage, every option should be considered. House Legislation H7062 reflects a thoughtful and pragmatic approach to tackling this critical issue. We appreciate the careful consideration given to balancing the needs of communities and the overarching goal of housing affordability.

As this bill progresses through the legislative process, we stand ready to assist in a manner that allows us to preserve and promote the quality of life based on the unique needs of the 39 cities and towns we represent. It is crucial that we continue to include the local voice at the table in these discussions and we remain committed to working collaboratively with all stakeholders to ensure that the legislation aligns with the diverse needs of our communities while also addressing the housing situation that the state currently faces. Thank you for your dedication to addressing Rhode Island's housing challenges and we look forward to continued collaboration with all stakeholders as House Legislation H7062 moves forward.

On behalf of the League of Cities and Towns thank you for allowing me the opportunity to express our views.

Sincerely,

David M. Bodah  
Associate Director

Cc: Representative Kathleen A. Fogarty, First Vice Chair  
Representative June Speakman, Second Vice Chair  
Ernie Almonte, Executive Director, RILCT