

March 12, 2024

The Honorable Stephen Casey Chairman, House Committee on Municipal Government & Housing 82 Smith Street Providence, RI 02903

RE: Support of H 7982 & H 7983

Dear Chairman Casey,

The RI Builders Association, the State's residential construction trade association with over 1,000 member companies, is writing to inform the committee of its support for the issues provided for in H 7982 - a bill dealing with the inspection process, the consistency of code enforcement, and the recruitment, training, and development of building officials. Although we expect that changes to the legislation may be needed, especially as feedback on the issues coalesce, we do concur that the situation with inspection and the shortages of qualified officials is becoming a major issue in the development process and more importantly, in the creation of housing.

The trade association is also writing you in support of H 7983 - a bill pertaining to the enforcement of wetland rules. We fundamentally agree with the need to have a central State agency oversee this vital environmental regulatory and enforcement issue.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide the committee this letter of support and please know we are available to discuss or testify further if requested.

Most respectfully,

John Marcantonio Executive Officer