



**STATE OF RHODE ISLAND**  
**Rhode Island Department of Housing**  
315 Iron Horse Way Ste. 101  
Providence, RI 02908

March 12, 2024

The Honorable Stephen M. Casey, Chair  
House Municipal Government and Housing Committee  
Rhode Island State House  
Providence, Rhode Island 02903

RE: H 7982 – An Act Relating to Towns and Cities

Dear Chairman Casey:

The Department of Housing Supports House Bill 7982, amending provisions related to the application of zoning ordinances pertaining to wetland buffers to projects for development, redevelopment, construction, or rehabilitation. This bill will help clarify the rules enacted in 2022 and roles for state and local governments.

The Department of Housing supports creating a navigable and straightforward regulatory environment wherever possible, as it pertains to development. This bill positively contributes in that effort, setting statewide policies for wetland buffers. From a section of Rhode Island General Laws 45-24-30 not proposed to be revised, “The general assembly recognizes these purposes...Promoting a balance of housing choices, for all income levels and groups...Providing opportunities for the establishment of low- and moderate-income housing ...Providing for efficient review of development proposals.” For the Department of Housing, these are important goals to be achieved through the zoning process and this bill contributes to that effort.

Sincerely,

Katuska Perez, on behalf of the Secretary of Housing Stefan Pryor  
Director of Intergovernmental and Public Affairs  
R.I. Department of Housing

CC: The Honorable Members of the House Municipal Government and Housing Committee  
The Honorable Representative Terri Cortvriend  
Nicole McCarty, Esquire, Chief Legal Counsel to the Speaker of the House  
Lynne Urbani, Director of House Policy