

April 11, 2024

The Honorable Stephen M. Casey
House Municipal Government and Housing Committee
Rhode Island State House
82 Smith St.
Providence RI, 02903

RE: Bill Number: 8146 House Resolution Extending the Reporting and Expirations Dates Social Short-Term Rentals Issues

Dear Chairman Casey and Honorable Members of the House Municipal Government and Housing Committee:

I am writing to express our support for House Resolution 8146, which seeks to extend the reporting and expiration dates and amend the purpose of the Special Legislative Commission tasked with reviewing and providing recommendations for policies related to economic and social issues surrounding short-term rentals.

We believe this bill is crucial for addressing the challenges posed by the rapid growth of short-term rentals in our area. The impact of short-term rentals on our neighborhoods, housing availability, and local economies cannot be overstated. Therefore, it is imperative that we have a comprehensive and thoughtful approach to regulating this sector.

House Resolution 8146 will allow the Special Legislative Commission to continue its important work beyond the current reporting and expiration dates, ensuring that adequate time is devoted to studying this complex issue. By extending these dates, the Commission will have the opportunity to thoroughly review all aspects of short-term rentals, including economic impacts, housing affordability, zoning considerations, and community well-being.

Furthermore, amending the purpose of the Commission to focus on providing recommendations for policies related to economic and social issues surrounding short-term rentals demonstrates a proactive commitment to addressing the concerns of residents and stakeholders.

We believe that thoughtful regulation of short-term rentals is essential to strike a balance between promoting tourism and protecting our neighborhoods' character and affordability. House Resolution 8146 represents a crucial step forward in achieving this balance by allowing for comprehensive research and thoughtful policy recommendations.

We support House Resolution 8146 and its efforts to extend the reporting and expiration dates of the Special Legislative Commission. By doing so, we can ensure that our community's interests are safeguarded while fostering a sustainable and equitable environment for all.

On behalf of the League of Cities and Towns, thank you for considering our concerns.

Sincerely,



David M. Bodah
Associate Director

Cc: House Municipal Government and Housing Committee
Ernie Almonte, Executive Director