

**Neighbors
Welcome!**
Rhode Island



To Chairman Stephen Casey
House Municipal Government & Housing

March 11th, 2025

RE: Support for House Bill 5310 – Amendment to the Rhode Island Housing & Conservation Trust Fund Act

Dear Chairman Casey and Members of the Committee,

Neighbors Welcome RI (NWRI) is a local nonprofit that advocates for policy reforms that support an abundance of housing production in every city and town across the state. The goal of our work is to advance housing production that meets the needs of every Rhode Islander, at every stage of life. We are writing in support of the proposed amendment to the Rhode Island Housing & Conservation Trust Fund Act (HB5310).

The proposed amendments enable the Rhode Island Housing & Conservation board to meet quorum, establish a designated fund at the Rhode Island Infrastructure Bank, and increase the allocation of funding to support low- and moderate-income housing. These are important improvements to enable the board to function well and use its expertise to inform housing and conservation decisions throughout the state.

We applaud the efforts of the bill sponsor, Representative June Speakman, and the RI Land Trust Council for working to revive the RI Housing & Conservation Trust fund and embracing the concept of Housing “and” Conservation, not Housing “or” Conservation.

Neighbors Welcome, RI respectfully urges the Committee to vote in support of the proposed amendments to HB5310.

Sincerely,

Kristina Brown, Vice President, Neighbors Welcome! RI