



March 20, 2025

The Honorable Stephen M. Casey, Chair  
House Municipal Government and Housing  
Rhode Island House of Representatives  
82 Smith Street  
Providence, RI 02903

RE: BILL NUMBER H-5801 – AN ACT RELATING TO TOWNS AND CITIES -- LOW- AND MODERATE-INCOME HOUSING

Dear Chair Casey and Honorable Committee Members,

On behalf of the Rhode Island League of Cities and Towns, I am writing to express our support for House Bill 5801, which seeks to amend definitions and approval procedures related to low- and moderate-income housing. We appreciate the state's commitment to addressing Rhode Island's housing challenges and recognize that this legislation provides a strong framework for progress.

As representatives of Rhode Island's 39 cities and towns, we recognize the importance of increasing access to affordable housing while also ensuring that local communities retain the flexibility necessary to address their unique needs. While we support the intent of this bill, we are still in the process of reviewing the specific provisions and their potential impact on our members. We look forward to continuing to work with you and other stakeholders to ensure that any additional language in this legislation supports municipalities and their diverse housing priorities.

Additionally, we emphasize the importance of maintaining existing incentives in state law that encourage local governments to actively engage in affordable housing development. These incentives have proven to be an effective tool in assisting municipalities as they work to meet their affordable housing obligations while considering local constraints and planning needs. Preserving these provisions will help ensure continued progress without undermining the ability of cities and towns to implement sustainable housing solutions tailored to their communities.

We appreciate your leadership in tackling Rhode Island's housing issues and your willingness to collaborate with local governments. We remain committed to working together to create policies that balance statewide housing goals with the distinct needs of our cities and towns.

Thank you for your leadership on this critical issue. We welcome the opportunity to collaborate and support efforts that equip municipalities with the necessary tools to address Rhode Island's housing needs.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "R. R. Rossi", is written over a light blue horizontal line.

Randy R. Rossi  
Executive Director

Cc: Honorable Members of House Municipal Government and Housing