



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-5802 – AN ACT RELATING TO TOWNS AND CITIES -- RHODE ISLAND
COMPREHENSIVE PLANNING AND LAND USE ACT

Dear Chair Casey and Honorable Committee Members,

On behalf of the Rhode Island League of Cities and Towns, I write to express our support for House Bill 5802. We believe this legislation provides a framework to help municipalities address the housing challenges facing Rhode Island. The League recognizes the need for innovative solutions that leverage available resources, and we appreciate the bill's intent to streamline the approval process for state-owned vacant properties that can be repurposed for housing.

House Bill 5802 builds upon the work of Rep. Thomas E. Noret's Commission to Study the Cost and Status of State-Owned Vacant Properties, established via House Resolution 7320Aaa (2022). This Commission, has played a critical role in evaluating state-owned vacant and abandoned properties that may be utilized for housing opportunities. By establishing a more efficient approval process, this legislation seeks to expedite the transformation of underutilized properties into much-needed housing options.

We are still in the process of gathering input from our diverse membership. Each of Rhode Island's 39 cities and towns has unique housing needs and challenges, and we are committed to ensuring that their voices are heard in shaping policy. We look forward to working with the sponsor and other stakeholders to refine the bill's language as needed to best serve our municipalities.

We appreciate your leadership on this critical issue and stand ready to collaborate in advancing policies that promote sustainable housing solutions for Rhode Island's communities.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

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

Randy R. Rossi
Executive Director

Cc: Honorable Members of House Municipal Government and Housing