



Department of Business Regulation
Office of the Director

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March 20, 2025

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

RE: H 5803 -- AN ACT RELATING TO HEALTH AND SAFETY -- STATE BUILDING CODE

Dear Chair Casey:

I write on behalf of the Department of Business Regulation in support of House Bills 5803.

The bill before you today aims to further expand the successful Statewide E-Permitting Initiative currently under the purview of the State Building Office within DBR. We are proud of the successful implementation and expansion of the e-permitting program in recent years, and strongly support efforts to further expand it to related business processes and our partner state agencies. We have achieved near-uniform uptake of e-permitting among building and fire departments across Rhode Island. At present, we are hard at work implementing the expansion to planning and zoning applications in close collaborations with municipalities – zoning applications started to go-live at the beginning of this month with a uniform planning application being developed for deployment later this summer.

House Bill 5803 would facilitate the adoption of uniform e-permitting within DEM, CRMC, and the Department of Transportation; this is a logical and likely beneficial next step for the e-permitting program and one that the Department strongly supports conceptually. We are aware of e-permitting initiatives at our partner agencies, and look forward to further evaluating the path forward towards a unified e-permitting system within state government.

Thank you for your consideration of my testimony and I look forward to further discussion at your convenience.

Sincerely,

Elizabeth Kelleher Dwyer, Esq.
Director
Department of Business Regulation
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cc : Honorable Members of the House Committee on Municipal Government and Housing
The Honorable K. Joseph Shekarchi, Speaker of the House
The Honorable June Speakman
Nicole McCarty, Executive Counsel to the Speaker of the House
Lynne Urbani, Director of Policy
Matthew Santacroce, Deputy Director, Department of Business Regulation
Pamela J. Toro, Esq., Legal Services Administrator, Department of Business Regulation
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