



STATE OF RHODE ISLAND
EXECUTIVE OFFICE OF COMMERCE

March 20, 2025

The Honorable Stephen M. Casey
Chair, House Committee on Municipal Government and Housing
State House
Providence, RI 02903

RE: H. 5803 — State Building Code

Dear Chair Casey and Members of the Committee,

Thank you for the opportunity to support House Bill 5803, State Building Code. The Executive Office of Commerce and Rhode Island Commerce Corporation are in favor of establishing a comprehensive E-permitting framework for all state and local applications.

As the Secretary of Commerce, I am proud to be a champion for the digitization of government processes to create more cost-efficient, transparent, and responsive services that better serve the needs of all Rhode Islanders and contribute to overall socioeconomic development. The E-permitting platform's proven success in reducing red tape demonstrates its potential to further streamline interactions between applicants and government agencies, promoting a more business-friendly environment.

I encourage the passage of House Bill 5803. This bill represents a step forward in continuing to streamline processes, increase accessibility, reduce costs, improve transparency and efficiency, enhance communication, positively impact the environment, and foster economic growth by implementing measures to digitize government activities. Further, the continued move to digital government and permitting will improve data accessibility and transparency at the state government level, making it easier to do business with the state.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Elizabeth M. Tanner, Esq.
Secretary of Commerce

CC. Honorable Members of the House Municipal Government and Housing Committee
The Honorable K. Joseph Shekarchi, Speaker of the House
Nicole McCarty, Esq., Chief Legal Counsel