

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-5803 – AN ACT RELATING TO HEALTH AND SAFETY -- STATE BUILDING CODE

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 5803. We appreciate the State's continued commitment to addressing Rhode Island's housing challenges and recognize that this legislation provides a strong framework for improving the efficiency of the permitting process.

House Bill 5803 builds upon the progress made in last year's housing package (H-2024 7978A, 2024-S 3036A) by expanding the use of electronic permitting for building permits. This mandate, already set to take effect for planning and zoning applications by October 2024, would be extended to applications for the Rhode Island Department of Environmental Management, the Rhode Island Coastal Resources Management Council, and the Rhode Island Department of Transportation by October 2026.

The League recognizes the value of modernizing and streamlining permitting processes, which can facilitate economic development while maintaining the necessary review and oversight of projects. We appreciate the State's efforts to improve interagency coordination and ensure consistency in permitting across different levels of government.

We look forward to working collaboratively to ensure this legislation serves the best interests of Rhode Island's cities and towns.

Thank you for your leadership and commitment to improving the housing landscape in our state.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Randy R. Rossi".

Randy R. Rossi
Executive Director

Cc: Honorable Members of House Municipal Government and Housing