

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-5804 – AN ACT RELATING TO HEATH AND SAFETY -- STATE BUILDING CODE

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 5804, which seeks to build upon the foundational work established by last year's housing legislation (2024-H 7983B, 2024-S 2990A). This bill represents a meaningful step forward in streamlining the state's approach to building and fire codes, as well as permitting processes.

We appreciate the state's commitment to addressing Rhode Island's housing challenges, and we recognize that this legislation provides a solid framework for continued progress. By centralizing roles, defining quorums, and further clarifying the duties of state officials, employees, commissions, and boards, House Bill 5804 enhances the efficiency and coordination necessary to facilitate much-needed housing development.

We pledge to continue working closely with the bill sponsor and legislative leadership to ensure that any additional language incorporated into this legislation supports our municipalities and their specific requirements. It is our priority to maintain a balanced approach that promotes housing development while preserving local governance and public safety standards.

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 "R. R. Rossi".

Randy R. Rossi
Executive Director

Cc: Honorable Members of House Municipal Government and Housing