



April 10, 2025

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

**Re: Support for House Bills 5802 SubA and 803 SubA**

Dear Chair Casey and Members of the Committee:

The mission of the Housing Network of Rhode Island (HNRI) is to increase the supply of safe, healthy, and affordable homes in thriving communities. On behalf of HNRI and our membership of 18 nonprofit affordable housing developers, I write in **strong support of House Bills 5802 SubA, and 5803 SubA**. We thank Speaker Shekarchi and the bill sponsors for their sustained leadership on housing and for advancing a comprehensive package of legislation that supports increased opportunities to build more homes for Rhode Islanders that are critically needed.

The cost of housing – including the price of homes for rent, homes for sale, construction, and utilities - has increased dramatically since 2019, and people cannot keep pace. There are not enough homes being built, and the choked supply, combined with upward economic pressures and inflation, means more Rhode Islanders are facing housing instability, or are stuck in homes that no longer match their life's circumstances. These four housing bills build on prior legislation and further our progress in reducing barriers to residential development and ensuring cities and towns create opportunities for low- and moderate-income housing.

**H-5802 SubA (Noret) and H-5803 Sub A (Shekarchi)** provide various amendments that establish a streamlined process for the State to develop housing on state owned land and establishing and operationalizing an e-permitting platform for all state and local permits. Together, these bills strengthen our system for housing production across state and local governments.

Thank you for the opportunity to share my support of these important pieces of legislation with this Committee and I urge your support to advance these bills. I am available to answer any questions you might have and can be reached at 401-721-5680 ext. 104 or [mlodge@housingnetworkri.org](mailto:mlodge@housingnetworkri.org).

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Melina Lodge". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Melina" and last name "Lodge" clearly legible.

Melina Lodge, Executive Director