

April 22, 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-6162 – AN ACT RELATING TO TAXATION -- LEVY AND ASSESSMENT OF LOCAL TAXES

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 6162, which would authorize the City of Providence to exceed the state-mandated property tax levy cap by up to eight percent (8%) for Fiscal Year 2026.

This legislation is enabling in nature, introduced in direct response to a resolution unanimously approved by the Providence City Council on March 20, 2025, and signed by Mayor Brett Smiley on March 24, 2025. It reflects a collaborative and transparent process between local elected officials and the administration to address urgent fiscal challenges in a responsible manner.

The League supports municipalities having the flexibility and tools to manage their budgets effectively, particularly in large urban centers like Providence that face complex structural and financial pressures. Allowing a one-year, one-time adjustment to the levy cap will help the City navigate fiscal needs while maintaining essential public services and making long-term investments in financial stability.

This measure respects the principle of local control, preserves accountability to residents through existing local governance processes, and sets a time-limited scope for the adjustment. The League believes this legislation strikes an appropriate balance between state oversight and municipal autonomy.

We urge the Committee to favorably consider H-6162 and we stand ready to assist in any way as the General Assembly continues its deliberations.

Thank you for your attention to this matter and for your continued support of Rhode Island's cities and towns.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'R. Rossi', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Randy R. Rossi
Executive Director

Cc: Honorable Members of House Municipal Government and Housing