

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-5967 – A N A C T 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 strong support for House Bill 5967, which establishes a clear and consistent taxation framework for renewable energy resources while incentivizing the redevelopment of previously contaminated properties for renewable energy projects.

Municipalities across Rhode Island have long supported the transition to renewable energy. However, many communities have struggled with the lack of predictability in tax revenue associated with renewable energy infrastructure. H 5967 provides clarity and fairness by establishing a statewide standard for tangible and real property taxation, \$5.00 per 2-kilowatt of AC nameplate capacity for tangible property and \$3.50 per kilowatt of AC nameplate capacity for real property. This legislation ensures that municipalities hosting these projects receive a reasonable and predictable revenue stream, helping to offset the impacts and infrastructure demands that accompany such developments.

Importantly, H 5967 also strengthens the Renewable Ready Program by making renewable energy development a by-right use on previously contaminated properties, deeming it consistent with municipal comprehensive plans and affirming it to have no significant negative environmental impacts under § 45-23-60. This provision directly supports the dual goals of revitalizing blighted lands and promoting clean energy, both of which are high priorities for cities and towns statewide.

The reuse of contaminated properties for renewable energy is a practical and beneficial land use strategy. These sites are often unsuitable for traditional development but are uniquely appropriate for renewable energy due to the limited human exposure during and after construction. This approach aligns economic development with environmental remediation, turning liabilities into assets for our communities.

House Bill 5967 reflects a thoughtful, balanced policy that supports both local government and the state's renewable energy goals and we want to thank Representative Speakman for championing this legislation and listening to the concerns of cities and towns.

The League urges the Committee's support for H 5967 and stands ready to assist with its implementation and stands ready to work with legislators, agencies, and stakeholders to implement its provisions effectively.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,



Randy R. Rossi  
Executive Director

Cc: Honorable Members of House Municipal Government and Housing