

May 6, 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-6186 – CREATING A TASK FORCE TO STUDY AND DEFINE THE TERM
"HOUSEBOAT"

Dear Chair Casey and Honorable Committee Members,

On behalf of the Rhode Island League of Cities and Towns, I write to express our appreciation for the introduction of House Bill 6186, which would authorize the creation of a special legislative Task Force to study and define the term "houseboat" in light of current law.

Several of our member municipalities have faced regulatory uncertainties and practical difficulties in recent years when applying existing definitions and frameworks to houseboats and similar water-based dwellings. As these issues intersect with local zoning, environmental regulation, and infrastructure planning, we believe a thoughtful and comprehensive study is both timely and necessary.

We are especially grateful to the bill's sponsor for including a provision allowing the League to appoint a designee to the Task Force. Thank you for considering our members' voice and perspective on this commission. Ensuring municipal representation is critical to understanding how any proposed definition may affect local ordinances, enforcement responsibilities, and the planning needs of coastal communities.

We look forward to contributing to the work of the Task Force and helping shape a practical and equitable outcome for all stakeholders.

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 blue ink, appearing to read "Randy R. Rossi".

Randy R. Rossi
Executive Director

Cc: Honorable Members of House Municipal Government and Housing