



June 4, 2025

Honorable Stephen Casey  
Chair, House Municipal Government & Housing Committee  
Rhode Island State House  
Providence, Rhode Island 02903

Re: Opposition to House bills 6215, 6214, 6213, 6185, 6184, 6183, 6182, 6181, 6180, 6179, 6178, 6177, and 6176

Dear Chair Casey, First Vice Chair Fogarty, Second Vice Chair Speakman and Distinguished Committee Members,

Rhode Island and Mortgage Finance Corporation ("RIHousing") respectfully opposes House bills 6215, 6214, 6213, 6185, 6184, 6183, 6182, 6181, 6180, 6179, 6178, 6177, 6176 Relating to Affordable Housing in the town of Tiverton.

As you know, Rhode Island is currently facing a severe housing shortage, and that shortage is even more acute for affordable units. Over the past several months, RIHousing has testified before this committee in support of many bills that have been designed to address that shortage by reducing barriers to housing development and providing a consistent and streamlined process for developers in every city and town in Rhode Island.

The package of bills before you today reverses that progress, carving the town of Tiverton out of many of those requirements. These exemptions range from prohibiting accessory dwelling units in comprehensive permit proposals (bill 6178), to restricting development activity in areas with certain soil or water conditions, (bills 6213, 6181, 6177), to changing what and how units are counted as low- and moderate-income housing in Tiverton (bill 6179, 6214, 6185) or limiting eligibility for affordable units to Rhode Island residents (6182).

We understand the strain increased development activity can place on planning offices, particularly in smaller communities. In addition, every community has unique challenges that they may feel warrants a different approach when it comes to housing development. However, a consistent, statewide approach that facilitates housing development is essential for Rhode Island to meet its housing production goals and ensure that residents in all communities have access to homes they can afford. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Carol Ventura", is written over a light blue horizontal line.

Carol Ventura  
Executive Director

