



*Distinctive Communities
Powerful Alliance*

February 11, 2026

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-7568 – 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 am writing to express our support for House Bill 7568, which would grant municipalities the flexibility to waive interest on overdue commercial property taxes, subject to a capped amount per tax bill.

This legislation provides municipalities with an important discretionary tool to address local economic conditions in a manner that best serves their unique communities. By allowing, but not mandating, this waiver authority, House Bill 7568, is consistent with the League's longstanding principle of preserving municipal autonomy and local decision-making.

Cities and towns are in the best position to evaluate when temporary relief may be appropriate, particularly in circumstances where local businesses are experiencing short-term financial hardship. Providing this limited authority enables municipal leaders to balance economic development considerations with fiscal responsibility, ensuring that any relief granted is thoughtful, targeted, and consistent with maintaining stable municipal revenues.

Importantly, the bill does not impose a statewide mandate or financial burden but instead empowers local officials to make informed decisions based on the specific needs and fiscal conditions of their communities.

We appreciate the Committee's consideration of this legislation and stand ready to work with you to ensure Rhode Island's municipalities have the tools necessary to effectively govern and support their local economies.

Thank you for the opportunity to share the perspective of Rhode Island's municipalities and for your thoughtful consideration of this matter.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "R. Rossi", is written over a light blue circular stamp.

Randy R. Rossi
Executive Director

Cc: Honorable Members of House Municipal Government and Housing