



March 5th, 2026

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

Re: House bills H8000, H8001, H8002, H8003, H8005, H8006 and H8007

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

RIHousing is grateful for the leadership that Speaker Shekarchi and other General Assembly members have shown in continuing to make housing a top priority for the state. The General Assembly has been a key partner to help address the state's critical shortage of affordable housing. We are proud to support those efforts through our membership on the Low- and Moderate-Income Housing Commission and through the implementation of approved programs and policies.

We applaud the Speaker and the sponsors of the package of nine housing bills that were recently introduced for continuing to think creatively about how to address Rhode Island's housing challenges. Rhode Island is facing a critical housing shortage and residents continue to face rising housing costs. We look forward to working with the General Assembly and other partners in the months ahead to pass legislation that can make a real difference in creating tools and streamlining processes to address the housing crisis.

Many of the bills from that package of housing legislation are before this Committee tonight, including H8000, H8001, H8002, H8003, H8005, H8006 and H8007. The focus of these bills ranges from facilitating the development of temporary emergency shelters for the homeless, to mitigating barriers to housing development involving parking requirements and subdivision of oversized lots. One bill would allow for a potentially less expensive development model- single staircase design for buildings of up to four stories and 16 units.

RIHousing is still reviewing the details of this legislative package and may have recommendations for modifications to some of the proposed bills. However, we fully support the goal of this package- to continue the General Assembly's work to resolve the housing crisis by addressing a range of challenges that are slowing housing production. We look forward to working with the Committee, the Speaker, and the bill sponsors to achieve the goal of increasing the supply of housing in Rhode Island.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Carol Ventura". The signature is fluid and cursive.

Carol Ventura
Executive Director