



**Executive Office of Housing**  
State of Rhode Island  
One Capitol Hill, 3rd Floor  
Providence, RI 02908

March 5, 2026

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

RE: H8003, H8005

Dear Chairman Casey:

The Executive Office of Housing (EOH) appreciates the continued leadership of Speaker Shekarchi and the members of the General Assembly in making housing a top priority. The General Assembly has been a critical partner in addressing Rhode Island's housing shortage, and its continued focus on advancing housing legislation reflects a strong commitment to ensuring that Rhode Islanders at every income level have access to safe, stable, and affordable homes. Expanding housing affordability across the full spectrum remains a top priority of the McKee Administration.

H 8003 would exempt adaptive reuse projects on state-owned property from the local development review process and create a new process for reviewing applications at the state-level. Instead of the state-level review process as outlined in this bill, EOH recommends a simple provision that all adaptive reuse projects on state-owned land only be subject to Minor Land Development review. This could achieve the common goal of streamlining permitting for by-right projects in a simple manner that does not exclude the host municipality, consistent with the policies in *Housing 2030*, the state's Housing Guide Plan Element.

EOH supports reducing parking requirements near transit as proposed in H 8005. These types of requirements are known to restrict multi-family housing development by increasing construction costs. However, we respectfully recommend the bill sponsors consider adopting a uniform maximum threshold of 1.5 spaces per unit to align with our recently adopted Transit-Oriented Development (TOD) rules and regulations, formally adopted on February 12, 2026. Some areas

impacted by this bill may be appropriate for a one-space maximum, or even no parking at all, but other areas may find a 1 space per unit maximum challenging, particularly as the bill applies to areas near *planned*, not just existing, transit amenities, and our transit system is not currently able to ensure that residents will not need a vehicle.

Rhode Island continues to face a significant housing shortage, and thoughtful policy changes that streamline processes and create new tools will be critical to increasing housing supply. EOH looks forward to reviewing the full details of each bill and continuing our partnership with the General Assembly to advance thoughtful, effective solutions that increase housing production, preserve existing homes, and expand housing opportunities for Rhode Islanders.

We appreciate the opportunity to provide comments and welcome the chance to continue working with the Speaker, the Committee, and bill sponsors as these proposals move forward.

Sincerely,



Deborah J. Goddard  
Secretary of Housing

CC: The Honorable Members of the House Municipal Government and Housing Committee  
The Honorable Thomas E. Noret.  
The Honorable Joshua J. Giraldo  
Nicole McCarty, Esquire, Chief Legal Counsel to the Speaker of the House  
Lynne Urbani, Director of House Policy