



*Distinctive Communities
Powerful Alliance*

March 5, 2026

The Honorable Stephen M. Casey, Chair
House Municipal Government and Housing
Rhode Island House of Representatives
82 Smith Street
Providence, RI 02903

RE: HOUSE BILL 8005 – AN ACT RELATING TO TOWNS AND CITIES -- ZONING ORDINANCES

Dear Chair Casey and Honorable Committee Members,

On behalf of the Rhode Island League of Cities and Towns, we are supportive of this proposal, which establishes maximum parking requirements for multifamily housing in transit-accessible areas. This legislation aligns with national trends in sustainable development by reducing excessive off-street parking mandates and promoting transit-oriented development. We also recommend incorporating feedback from our cities and towns as the bill moves through the legislative process to ensure it reflects local needs and addresses practical considerations on the ground for our members.

By limiting parking requirements to one space per dwelling unit within designated transit-accessible areas, the bill encourages efficient land use, reduces construction costs, and supports increased housing density near transit hubs. These outcomes can enhance community livability, reduce traffic congestion, and encourage greater use of public transit options, consistent with goals outlined in the 2020 Rhode Island Transit Master Plan.

We appreciate that the bill provides clear definitions for transit-oriented areas and mobility hubs, giving municipalities a consistent framework while allowing local planning authorities to balance development needs with community priorities. At the same time, municipalities will need to review developments under the new requirements while keeping local planning, street capacity, and community needs in mind.

As this legislation is part of the Speaker's broader housing package, we also look forward to reviewing House Bill 8003 in conjunction with the other measures included in that package with our member municipalities. We remain committed to working collaboratively with the General Assembly, stakeholders, and our local officials to ensure that the various components operate in strong synergy and reflect practical, workable standards for cities and towns. We look forward to keeping the dialogue open as the legislation advances and to working together on any refinements that may further improve practical application at the local level.

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 blue ink, appearing to read "R. Rossi", is written over a light blue horizontal line.

Randy R. Rossi
Executive Director

Cc: Honorable Members of House Municipal Government and Housing