



March 24, 2026

Honorable Stephen M. Casey  
Chair, House Municipal Government and Housing Committee  
State House  
Providence, RI 02903

RE: H7568 - SUPPORT

Dear Chair Casey:

On behalf of the Rhode Island Business Leaders Alliance, I write in support of H7568, which would authorize municipalities to allow for the limited waiver of interest on overdue property tax payments under defined conditions.

This legislation represents a thoughtful, targeted approach to providing relief for property owners, particularly small businesses, who have otherwise demonstrated a consistent history of meeting their tax obligations.

As drafted, H7568 allows a municipality, by ordinance, to waive interest on a single overdue quarterly tax payment where the taxpayer has maintained a five-year history of timely payments, submits a written request, and meets other clearly defined criteria, with the waiver capped at \$500.

We support H7568 because it strikes an appropriate balance between fiscal responsibility and economic flexibility. The bill does not eliminate tax obligations or broadly forgive penalties. Instead, it provides narrowly tailored relief for responsible taxpayers who encounter temporary hardship. By limiting eligibility to taxpayers with a demonstrated history of timely payments, the bill incentivizes responsible behavior while providing a safety valve for unforeseen circumstances.

Commercial property owners, many of whom are small business operators, continue to face economic volatility, rising operating costs, and increasing uncertainty. Even short-term disruptions can result in missed payment deadlines and the accumulation of interest penalties that compound financial strain.

These provisions ensure that municipalities are not exposed to significant revenue loss while still providing meaningful, case-by-case relief. H7568 is a pragmatic, well-structured proposal that provides municipalities with a reasonable tool to support responsible taxpayers without undermining local revenue systems.

For these reasons, the Rhode Island Business Leaders Alliance respectfully urges the Committee to support H7568. We appreciate your consideration and would welcome the opportunity to work with the sponsor and stakeholders as this legislation moves forward.

Sincerely,

*Gregory Tumolo*

Gregory Tumolo, Executive Director  
Rhode Island Business Leaders Alliance

CC: Members of the House Municipal Government and Housing Committee