



*Distinctive Communities
Powerful Alliance*

March 24, 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 8009 – AN ACT RELATING TO ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES -- TEMPORARY
EXTENDED SERVICE HOURS

Dear Chair Casey and Honorable Committee Members,

On behalf of Rhode Island's cities and towns, we are supportive of the intent of House Bill 8009, which would authorize temporary periods for extended service hours under existing liquor licenses during the 2026 FIFA World Cup Tournament, from June 11, 2026 through July 19, 2026. The bill provides municipalities with flexibility while enabling communities and local businesses to participate in the economic opportunities presented by this historic event.

At the same time, we have concerns and encourage continued collaboration with the bill sponsor and impacted communities to refine the language. Specifically, we recommend clarifying the role of local licensing boards in managing special events. Many municipalities require advance notice, often at least two weeks, for temporary changes or extended service hours. Including clear language on this point will help boards oversee public safety, operational capacity, and community expectations while supporting the statewide event.

While we support the bill's intent and recognize its economic benefits, these refinements will help municipalities implement it in a way that protects their communities.

Thank you for the opportunity to present our perspective.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "R. Rossi", is positioned above the typed name.

Randy R. Rossi
Executive Director

Cc: Honorable Members of House Municipal Government and Housing