

March 24, 2026

The Honorable Stephen Casey  
Chair, House Municipal Government and Housing Committee  
82 Smith Street  
Providence, RI 02903

Dear Chairman Casey and Members of the Committee:

On behalf of our members, I write in strong support of H 8009, which would authorize temporary extended service hours for licensed establishments during the 2026 FIFA World Cup.

This legislation creates a unique, time-limited opportunity for Rhode Island's hospitality industry to participate in a global event that will drive increased demand, particularly for matches across multiple time zones. Extended hours will allow businesses to safely and effectively accommodate patrons while maximizing the economic benefits of this moment.

Just as importantly, this bill represents a meaningful economic opportunity for an industry facing significant cost pressures. Restaurants and bars continue to operate on thin margins due to rising labor, food, and operating costs. The ability to extend service hours during a high-demand period allows businesses to generate additional revenue, create more shifts for employees, increase earnings for staff who rely on hourly wages and tips, and taxes for the state, all without adding new administrative burdens.


H 8009 also appropriately preserves municipal control, allowing cities and towns to opt out or modify hours based on local needs, while ensuring coordination with public safety through advance notice requirements.

Finally, this measure helps position Rhode Island as a welcoming destination during a globally significant event, supporting not only individual businesses but the state's broader tourism economy.

For these reasons, we respectfully urge the Committee to pass H 8009.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,  
Ryan Moot  
Manager of Government Affairs  
RI Hospitality Association

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