



**RHODE ISLAND LEAGUE
OF CITIES AND TOWNS**

*Distinctive Communities
Powerful Alliance*

March 27, 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 8014 – AN ACT RELATING TO STATE AFFAIRS AND GOVERNMENT -- FARMLAND PRESERVATION ACT

Dear Chair Casey and Honorable Committee Members,

On behalf of the Rhode Island League of Cities and Towns, thank you for the opportunity to offer brief follow-up testimony regarding House Bill 8014.

We appreciate the sponsor taking the time to connect with the League and discuss the intent of the legislation in greater detail. That conversation was helpful in clarifying the goals of the bill and how it is intended to be applied in practice.

Importantly, we understand that House Bill 8014 includes provisions ensuring that these protections apply only while the land remains in active agricultural use. If the property is later developed or transferred for non-agricultural purposes within the specified timeframe, the exemption would no longer apply, and appropriate assessments could be made. This framework helps balance the goal of farmland preservation with fairness by ensuring that properties benefiting from future development contribute appropriately to infrastructure costs. It is vitally important that we preserve what limited farmland remains in Rhode Island, and we appreciate that this legislation seeks to do so in a thoughtful manner.

Based on our discussions, we value the dialogue with the sponsor, which has fostered a mutual understanding and helped balance the needs of municipalities with the importance of supporting and preserving Rhode Island's agricultural community. We support House Bill 8014 and are grateful for the sponsor's willingness to work collaboratively and consider municipal perspectives, ensuring the bill balances the needs of municipalities with the preservation of Rhode Island's agricultural community.

Thank you for the opportunity to present our perspective.

Sincerely,

Randy R. Rossi
Executive Director

Cc: Honorable Members of House Municipal Government and Housing
Representative Earl A. Read, III