



March 31, 2026

The Honorable Stephen Casey
Chair, House Municipal Government and Housing Committee
Rhode Island State House
Providence, Rhode Island 02903

Re: House Bill 7445

Dear Chair Casey, First Vice Chair Fogarty, Second Vice Chair Speakman, and Distinguished Committee Members,

RIHousing respectfully raises concerns with House Bill 7445. House Bill 7445, *An Act Relating to Property – Faith-Based Affordable Housing Development*, would allow faith-based organizations to develop affordable and mixed-use housing on land they own as a by-right use, set statewide development standards, limit local review, and streamline approvals to expand housing supply.

RIHousing supports the goal of expanding housing opportunities, including through partnerships with faith-based institutions as proposed in this legislation. However, we have concerns about the role this bill assigns RIHousing. HB7445 designates RIHousing as the entity responsible for monitoring compliance with the entire chapter and authorizes us to refer violations to the Attorney General. This legislation deals primarily with land use requirements and development permitting and approval at the local level for eligible projects. Those responsibilities are outside of the scope of our mission as a housing finance agency.

We respectfully ask that the bill be amended to place responsibility for enforcement with an entity better suited to carry out that role.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Carol Ventura'.

Carol Ventura
Executive Director, RIHousing