



Executive Office of Housing
State of Rhode Island
One Capitol Hill, 3rd Floor
Providence, RI 02908

March 31, 2026

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

RE: H 8013

Dear Chairman Casey:

The Executive Office of Housing (“EOH”) appreciates the opportunity to respectfully submit this letter of concern for House Bill 8013, which would change the notification process for the right of first refusal for mobile home residents to buy or lease their park, requiring owners to notify individual residents in lieu of a home owners’ association and EOH of bona fide offers and allow time to match the terms.

EOH understands that while not all mobile home parks are deed-restricted, many offer naturally occurring affordable housing, making their preservation an important part of the state’s housing strategy. EOH writes to express concern with this bill as currently written. This bill would require EOH, in collaboration with the Department of Business Regulation (“DBR”) to implement and enforce the provisions of this bill, which EOH does not have staff capacity or expertise to do. Additionally, while this bill would require a park owner to notify each resident and EOH before selling the park, it is unclear what the expectations are for EOH in addition to implementing and enforcing this bill.

We appreciate the opportunity to provide comments and welcome the chance to continue working with the Committee and bill sponsors as this proposal moves forward.

Sincerely,

Deborah J. Goddard
Secretary of Housing

CC: The Honorable Members of the House Municipal Government and Housing Committee
The Honorable June Speakman
Nicole McCarty, Esquire, Chief Legal Counsel to the Speaker of the House
Lynne Urbani, Director of House Policy