



**RHODE ISLAND LEAGUE
OF CITIES AND TOWNS**

*Distinctive Communities
Powerful Alliance*

March 31, 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 8039 – AN ACT RELATING TO TOWNS AND CITIES -- ZONING ORDINANCES

Dear Chair Casey and Honorable Committee Members,

On behalf of the Rhode Island League of Cities and Towns, thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony on this legislation.

We would like to begin by thanking the sponsor for their continued engagement and thoughtful dialogue on housing-related proposals this session. We appreciate the willingness to work collaboratively with stakeholders, including municipalities, to address Rhode Island's housing needs in a constructive and solutions-oriented manner.

The League supports the overall intent of this legislation to expand housing opportunities, particularly in areas served by existing infrastructure, and to provide a broader range of housing options for residents across the state. Our member municipalities recognize the importance of increasing housing production and remain committed partners in advancing practical and sustainable solutions.

At the same time, we would like to respectfully highlight a few areas where additional clarity and balance may be beneficial. Certain provisions related to dimensional standards, parking requirements, and the treatment of accessory dwelling units may limit municipalities' ability to plan for growth in a coordinated manner based on local conditions, infrastructure capacity, and community context. We believe there may be opportunities to refine these sections to ensure that the bill's goals are achieved while preserving appropriate local oversight.

The League remains committed to working closely with the sponsor, in conjunction with our member municipalities, as this legislation continues to move through the process. We look forward to continued dialogue and collaboration to ensure the final product reflects both the intent of expanding housing opportunities and the practical needs of cities and towns responsible for implementation.

Sincerely,

Randy R. Rossi
Executive Director

Cc: Honorable Members of House Municipal Government and Housing