



March 31, 2026

Chairman Stephen Casey
RI State House Committee on Municipal Government and Housing
State House
Providence, RI 02903

Re: Support for H-8039

Nicholas Roach
Board Chair

Scott Wolf
Executive Director

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Dear Chairman Casey and Honorable Committee Members:

Grow Smart RI is Rhode Island's statewide smart growth advocacy organization. We represent a big-tent coalition of business and civic leaders, development and finance professionals and engaged grass roots community change agents, all committed to designing and developing/redeveloping our communities in ways that strengthen our Downtowns and Main Streets, expand affordable transportation and housing options, improve access to daily physical activity and protect Rhode Island's beauty, magic and soul.

Since our founding 28 years ago, Grow Smart RI has prioritized policies and land use reforms that encourage equitable and sustainable population and housing growth - the kind of growth best achieved through redevelopment and revitalization of our already built up, mixed use, Main Street and Downtown districts.

I am writing today in general support of H-8039, which would improve past-year legislation by clarifying the language and ensuring consistent implementation.

This bill clarifies provisions of the accessory dwelling unit (ADU) law, addresses how subdivision laws apply to substandard lots, and reduces ambiguity around townhomes. These are necessary steps to ensure effective implementation of existing laws and make it easier to build smaller homes across the state.

We need a diversity of housing types all across Rhode Island and making it easier to build ADUs, small homes, and townhomes is critical to addressing the housing shortage.

Sincerely,

Scott Wolf
Executive Director
Grow Smart RI