



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

April 7, 2026

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

Re: H 7565

Dear Chair Casey:

The Executive Office of Housing (“EOH”) respectfully submits this letter of opposition to House Bill 7565, which would create a new process and definition for “substantial multi-family housing project” that would apply to municipalities with less than 40,000 residents. This change would subject these projects to much stricter scrutiny than other comprehensive permit projects. Ultimately, this bill is in direct opposition to the strategies laid out in *Housing 2030*, would make the development of needed housing more difficult, and rolls back positive reforms that have been enacted in recent General Assembly sessions.

We understand that different housing types and densities are appropriate for different communities throughout our state. *Housing 2030* does not prescribe a one-size-fits-all approach, but rather tailors housing development goals for each municipality depending on their proximity to jobs and transit. This bill, however, would make it harder for even our state’s smaller and more rural communities to reach their permitting goals. It would circumvent the comprehensive permit process and force developers of even moderately sized housing projects to navigate many more layers of bureaucracy in 33 out of the 39 municipalities in the state.

We thank the committee for their consideration of this testimony and urge members to oppose House Bill 7565. Instead, we ask members to support the policies put forward in *Housing 2030* and enable the development of housing throughout our state.

Sincerely,

Deborah J. Goddard
Secretary of Housing

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