



**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 7659

Dear Chairman Casey:

The Executive Office of Housing (“EOH”) respectfully submits this letter of opposition to H 7659, which would weaken the Low- and Moderate- Income Housing (“LMIH”) Act, deter new housing development, and create a moving target for municipalities with regard to affordable housing.

This bill would exclude from comprehensive housing permits any community with an inclusionary zoning ordinance requiring all new housing developments be at least fifty percent (50%) deed-restricted affordable. While this may be a well-intentioned effort to increase the number of LMIH units, past experience and evidence from localities that have enacted such measures shows that they do not achieve this goal and, instead, deter new housing development.

Sincerely,

Deborah J. Goddard  
Secretary of Housing

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