



**RHODE ISLAND LEAGUE  
OF CITIES AND TOWNS**

*Distinctive Communities  
Powerful Alliance*

April 7, 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 8032 – AN ACT RELATING TO TOWNS AND CITIES -- LOW AND MODERATE INCOME HOUSING

Dear Chair Casey and Honorable Committee Members,

On behalf of the Rhode Island League of Cities and Towns, we write to express our support for House Bill 8032, which proposes critical amendments to the Low and Moderate Income (LMI) Housing Act. This legislation aims to clarify and limit mandated housing densities in areas that rely on public drinking water supplies, including designated watersheds and groundwater classified as GAA. Specifically, the bill ensures that proposed housing developments are compatible with available onsite drinking water supplies, avoid introducing contaminants, and remain within the capacity of public water and sewer systems.

These changes represent a thoughtful and necessary approach to safeguarding one of Rhode Island's most essential resources: safe and reliable drinking water. Ensuring the quality and availability of drinking water is a fundamental public health and safety responsibility for our municipalities. Allowing housing densities to increase without regard for water supply limitations could strain municipal systems, increase the risk of contamination, and create long-term public health and environmental challenges that are costly and complex to resolve.

At the same time, we acknowledge the importance of addressing Rhode Island's housing needs. House Bill 8032 seeks to balance these priorities responsibly: it does not prohibit municipalities from working with developers to increase housing density where appropriate, but it does ensure that such development aligns with the capacity and safety of local water systems.

By protecting public health and drinking water resources while supporting responsible housing growth, this legislation promotes sustainable community development across Rhode Island.

Thank you again for your consideration of this legislation and for the opportunity to share the League's perspective.

Sincerely,

Randy R. Rossi  
Executive Director

Cc: Honorable Members of House Municipal Government and Housing