



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

April 15, 2026

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

RE: H 7123, H 7124, H 7125, H7292, H 7293, H 7294, H7295, H 7296, H7297, H7372, H7492, H 8033, H8034, H 8041, H 8249, H8279, H8280, H8281, H 8016

Dear Chairman Casey:

The Department of Housing respectfully writes in opposition to H 7123, H 7124, H 7125, H7292, H 7293, H 7294, H7295, H 7296, H7297, H7372, H7492, H 8033, H8034, H 8041, H 8249, H8279, H8280, H8281, and H 8016.

This package of bills would create carve outs for municipalities from the statewide comprehensive permit process and Low- or Moderate- Income Housing requirements ("LMIH"). While we understand each community faces very real and specific challenges, exempting towns from statewide requirements would increase the challenges we already face. The Department remains committed to supporting and assisting all municipalities as they seek to adjust to new zoning requirements and pursue responsible growth.

At the core of the State's housing challenge is an inadequate supply of housing caused by more than a decade of extraordinarily low rates of homebuilding. *Housing 2030*, Rhode Island's State Housing Plan, provides a roadmap for the work ahead needed to improve housing development in Rhode Island. Rather than a one-size-fits-all approach, each municipality has its own production goal, tailored to their individual circumstances that impact their capacity to add housing. While many factors influencing permit numbers are beyond municipal control, municipalities are expected to take meaningful action within their authority to help meet their housing goals. EOH understands this is not easy and many municipalities require assistance. For that reason, and in partnership with RIHousing, we have provided Municipal Technical Assistance to help municipalities expand local housing by providing technical assistance for eligible activities such as zoning updates, infrastructure assessments, site analysis, and community engagement. EOH and RIHousing are also committed to continuing the Municipal Fellows program, which aims to address municipal staffing shortages that impact housing production.

EOH is grateful for the General Assembly's continued efforts to address our housing challenges through significant reforms aimed towards reducing barriers and streamlining housing development. EOH remains

open to working with all communities and collaborating on policies and the implementation of *Housing 2030*. Thank you for your time and consideration of these comments.

Sincerely,



Deborah J. Goddard
Secretary of Housing

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