



April 29, 2026

Honorable Members of House Committee on Municipal Government & Housing

RE: H7774

Dear Chairman Casey / Committee Members,

On behalf of the RI Builders Association, the residential trade association representing over 1,200 local contracting firms, I am writing to express my strong support for H7774, legislation that would align Rhode Island's building and energy codes to a consistent 2024 baseline and establish a pause on further code adoption until 2030. This approach represents a practical, balanced strategy that will deliver meaningful benefits across the construction, design, enforcement, and regulatory communities while maintaining the integrity of safety and efficiency standards.

Aligning codes to a single, consistent 2024 edition will significantly improve coordination across the industry. Currently, staggered or overlapping code cycles create confusion among architects, engineers, builders, and suppliers, often resulting in conflicting requirements and inefficiencies. A unified baseline allows all stakeholders to operate from the same set of expectations, reducing errors, redesigns, and delays. This consistency is especially valuable for projects that span significant timeframes, where midstream code changes can introduce costly complications.

From a logistics standpoint, a stable code environment simplifies procurement and project planning. Manufacturers and suppliers can standardize products and inventory to meet a single code framework, improving availability and reducing lead times. Contractors benefit from clearer timelines and fewer disruptions, while project owners gain more predictable costs and schedules.

Training and workforce development also stand to benefit substantially. Code updates require significant time and resources for education and certification across multiple professions, including inspectors, plan reviewers, designers, and tradespeople. By establishing a 2024 baseline and pausing further updates, the state enables a more thorough and effective training cycle. This ensures that professionals are not only aware of the requirements but are fully competent in applying them, leading to better compliance and higher-quality outcomes.

Cost control is another important advantage. Frequent code changes often necessitate redesigns, new materials, and additional administrative work, all of which increase project costs. These expenses are ultimately borne by homeowners and future home buyers. A pause in adoption provides cost stability, allowing the market to adjust and absorb the current standards without the pressure of continual change.

Equally important is the alignment it brings to enforcement and inspection practices. Code officials and inspectors must interpret and apply regulations consistently to ensure fairness and safety. A stable code environment reduces ambiguity, improves consistency in enforcement, and enhances the effectiveness of inspections. It also allows jurisdictions to fully implement and refine their processes under the 2024 codes before transitioning to future updates.

The proposed pause until 2030 is a reasonable and measured approach. Building codes have become increasingly complex, and the pace of updates can outstrip the industry's ability to fully implement them. A temporary pause provides the necessary time to consolidate gains, ensure proper adoption, and evaluate real-world performance.

Importantly, this pause is unlikely to have a significant negative impact on energy efficiency or life safety. The 2024 codes already represent a high standard, incorporating modern advancements in building performance, fire protection, structural integrity, and occupant safety. The incremental improvements typically introduced in subsequent code cycles are often marginal compared to the substantial progress already achieved. By focusing on full and consistent implementation of the 2024 codes, Rhode Island can realize the intended benefits of these standards without dilution or inconsistency.

In fact, a stable code period may enhance outcomes in these areas. When professionals have the time and clarity to fully understand and apply existing requirements, compliance improves, and the intended safety and efficiency benefits are more reliably achieved. Frequent changes, by contrast, can lead to confusion, uneven application, and reduced effectiveness.

In summary, H7774 offers a thoughtful path forward: one that prioritizes coordination, clarity, and effective implementation while maintaining strong standards for safety and efficiency. Aligning to a 2024 baseline and pausing further adoption until 2030 will support the industry, reduce costs, improve training and enforcement, and ultimately benefit the people of Rhode Island.

Thank you for your consideration of this important legislation.

Respectfully submitted,


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