

May 28, 2026



Dear Chairman Casey:

On behalf of the member companies of The Rhode Island Chapter of Associated General Contractors (RIAGC), I write in support of H7774, legislation that would align Rhode Island's residential building and energy codes to a consistent 2024 baseline and pause further code adoption until 2030.

RIAGC supports the Rhode Island Builders Association's (RIBA) advocacy for this bill. While our organizations support different sectors of the construction industry, we often work collaboratively to advance the industry in our state. This bill provides a practical, balanced strategy that will deliver 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 improve coordination across the construction industry. Currently, staggered or overlapping code cycles can create confusion among architects, engineers, builders, and suppliers, leading to conflicting requirements and inefficiencies. A unified baseline allows all stakeholders to operate from the same set of expectations, reducing errors, redesigns, and delays.

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 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. A temporary pause provides the necessary time to consolidate gains, ensure proper adoption, and evaluate real-world performance. This is incredibly important across all sectors of the construction industry – particularly at a time when the industry is facing serious workforce shortages.

In summary, H7774 offers a consistent and thoughtful path forward. Thank you in advance for your consideration of this bill.

Sincerely,

Kerrie Bennett  
Executive Director