



May 26, 2026

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

Re: House Bills 8468, 8469, 8470, 8471, and 8472

Dear Chair Casey, First Vice Chair Fogarty, Second Vice Chair Speakman and Distinguished Committee Members,

The Rhode Island Housing and Mortgage Finance Corporation (“RIHousing”) respectfully opposes House bills 8468, 8469, 8470, 8471, and 8472 all of which relate to affordable housing and development in Coventry.

Rhode Island is experiencing a significant housing shortage, with an even more critical deficit of affordable units. In recent years, the General Assembly has taken important steps to remove barriers to housing production and create a more predictable, streamlined development process across all cities and towns. These reforms are helping Rhode Island move toward its housing production goals.

The bills before you today in committee would reverse that progress by allowing the town of Coventry to opt out of key statewide requirements. The proposed changes vary, but collectively they would limit or weaken the effectiveness of comprehensive permits and the Low and Moderate Income Housing Act, impose new minimum parking requirements, and change local land use and zoning rules in ways that would make development more difficult.

We recognize that increased development activity can strain local planning offices, especially in smaller communities, and we understand that every municipality has unique challenges. However, a consistent, statewide framework is essential to remove barriers to housing development and stimulate much needed housing development. For these reasons, we urge the committee to oppose these bills.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Carol Ventura".

Carol Ventura
Executive Director