



March 25, 2021

The Honorable Raymond A. Hull
Chairman
House Committee on Municipal Government & Housing

RE: "An Act relating to Cities and Towns—Zoning Ordinances"

Dear Chairman Hull and Committee Members:

On behalf of the more than 6,000 members of the Rhode Island Association of REALTORS® (RIAR), thank you for accepting testimony and affording our organization with the opportunity to comment on H 6093.

REALTORS® across Rhode Island appreciate the House Leadership's commitment to improving homeownership opportunities and access to affordable housing. The foundation of our economy is housing. According to the National Association of REALTORS®, the Rhode Island real estate industry accounted for nearly \$12 billion or 18.2% of the gross state product in 2019.¹

Our association commends the bill's sponsors for considering policy ideas that add more housing across our State. It is no secret that Rhode Island is experiencing a housing crisis. Thus, solutions that promote more diverse housing types in a state where housing is already in short supply is needed.

RIAR was pleased to learn that H 5950, which creates a legislative commission to study the entire areas of land use in Rhode Island was part of Speaker Shekarchi's legislative housing package. Our members trust that the commission's work is a necessary first step at exploring the feasibility of bold measures such as H 6093.

Sincerely,

David A. Salvatore
Government Affairs Director

¹ <https://www.nar.realtor/sites/default/files/documents/2019-state-economic-impact-of-real-estate-activity-ri-04-14-2020.pdf>