



State of Rhode Island
Office of Lieutenant Governor Sabina Matos

February 1, 2022

The Honorable Carol Hagan McEntee
Chairwoman, House Committee on Small Business
House Lounge, Rhode Island State House
Providence, RI 02903

RE: 2022 – H 7095 – Zoning Ordinances

Dear Chairwoman McEntee,

I am writing in strong support of 2022 House Bill 7095, An Act Relating to Towns and Cities – Zoning Ordinances.

As Chair of the Small Business Advocacy Council, I have witnessed tremendous resiliency and resourcefulness among small business owners across the state during the COVID-19 pandemic. Many members of the small business community have adapted their operations significantly in order to mitigate ongoing capacity and workforce setbacks. Small businesses form the backbone of Rhode Island's economy and employ the majority of its workforce, and it is crucial that our state support their efforts in every way possible.

By extending the zoning modifications necessary for small businesses to operate under the conditions of the pandemic, this bill will prove indispensable for Rhode Island's economic recovery.

I commend you for your continued leadership on this issue, and I am grateful that you and your fellow sponsors have championed the needs of Rhode Island's small business owners and workforce during this public health crisis. I strongly advocate for the swift passage of 2022 – H 7095.

Sincerely,

Sabina Matos
Lieutenant Governor

CC: The Honorable Members of the House Committee on Small Business
Danica A. Iacoi, Esq.