



January 31, 2024

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

RE: House Bill Number: H7064 Relating to Towns and Cities – Outdoor Dining Act

Dear Chairwoman McEntee and Honorable Committee Members

I am writing to the Committee today regarding House Bill 7064 sponsored by Chairwoman McEntee,

On behalf of the League of Cities and Towns thank you for allowing me the opportunity to express our support for this bill. This legislation holds immense promise for bolstering the economic recovery of the hospitality industry. The League unequivocally stands in favor of this bill, recognizing the significance of collaborative efforts between the hospitality industry and municipalities that have culminated in the legislation presented before the committee today.

City and town leaders have admirably collaborated with local businesses, fostering economic recovery while upholding the principles of local control and decision-making. The positive outcomes of these collaborative endeavors are evident in the carefully crafted legislation that stands before the committee.

Given the extensive cooperation that has shaped this legislation, I urge the committee to wholeheartedly approve H7064. This bill, born out of a collective commitment to the well-being of the hospitality sector and local communities, deserves the committee's endorsement. Thank you for considering my testimony and for your support of this crucial legislation.

Sincerely,

David M. Bodah
Associate Director

Cc: Representative Justine A. Caldwell, First Vice Chair
Representative Terri Cortvriend, Second Vice Chair
Ernie Almonte, Executive Director, RILCT