



**State of Rhode Island and Providence Plantations
DEPARTMENT OF BUSINESS REGULATION
1511 Pontiac Avenue, Bldg. 68-69
Cranston, Rhode Island 02920**

Office of the Director

June 22, 2021

The Honorable Evan P. Shanley
Chair, House State Government and Elections Committee
State House
Providence, Rhode Island

Re: H 6446 – Relating to Health and Safety – State Building Code

Dear Chair Shanley:

The Department of Business Regulation (“DBR”) submits this letter in support of H 6446.

The amendments proposed in this bill would require the use of a statewide electronic construction permitting system (“e-permitting”) by all cities and towns as it relates to applications; submission of building plans and plans for developments and plots; plan review; permitting; inspections; inspection scheduling; project tracking; fee calculation and collections; and workflow and report management.

By way of a short background, e-permitting has been in place since 2016 and is currently used by both the State Building Office and the Office of the State Fire Marshal, units within the DBR, with a very high level of customer and staff satisfaction. In addition, thirty-one (31) cities and towns are also utilizing the system.

Bringing the remaining eight (8) cities and town on board, broadening e-permitting’s scope, and streamlining applications and procedures, would greatly improve the development process statewide. Our own experience, coupled with feedback from the industry, has demonstrated that the system has been well received, makes the construction permitting process more transparent and easier to navigate, and greatly increases efficiency for builders and homeowners alike.

Thank you for your consideration of our position on this proposed legislation.

Sincerely,

Elizabeth M. Tanner Esq.
Director, Department of Business Regulation

cc: Members, House State Government and Elections Committee

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