



May 7, 2026

Honorable Louis P. DiPalma  
Chairman, Senate Committee on Finance  
Rhode Island State House  
Providence, RI 02903

RE: S2453 – SUPPORT

Dear Chairman DiPalma:

On behalf of the Rhode Island Business Leaders Alliance (the “Alliance”), I write in support of S2453 – An Act Relating to Taxation -- Levy and Assessment of Local Taxes.

S2453 would amend existing law to allow municipalities to authorize a waiver of interest on one quarter’s overdue property tax payment not only for residential property, but also for commercial property, provided the taxpayer satisfies the bill’s conditions. Those conditions include that the property has been the taxpayer’s residence or commercial property for the preceding five years, that the request is made in writing, that the taxpayer has a five-year history of timely payments, and that the overdue bill was issued less than two years before the waiver request. The bill also retains the existing \$500 cap on any waiver of interest.

The Alliance supports S2453 because it is a modest, reasonable, and targeted measure that gives municipalities flexibility to provide limited relief in appropriate cases without undermining the overall property tax system. The bill does not mandate waivers. It simply allows cities and towns, if they choose to do so by ordinance, to extend the same opportunity to qualifying commercial taxpayers that already exists in this framework for other property owners.

That is a sensible reform. Small businesses and property owners can face temporary cash-flow challenges for any number of reasons, and a narrowly tailored ability to waive interest on a single overdue quarterly payment can help prevent a short-term problem from becoming a larger financial burden. At the same time, S2453 is carefully limited to taxpayers with an established record of compliance. It applies only where there has been timely payment for the previous five years, where the request is made promptly, and where the waiver is capped. Those safeguards make clear that this is not a broad forgiveness program, but a narrow tool for fairness and practical problem-solving.

For Rhode Island’s business community, this bill represents a measured step toward a more reasonable and responsive local tax system. It offers municipalities a practical option to address limited hardship situations involving commercial properties while preserving clear eligibility standards and modest limits on relief.

For these reasons, the Alliance respectfully urges the Committee's favorable consideration of S2453.

Sincerely,

*Gregory Tumolo*

Gregory Tumolo, Executive Director  
Rhode Island Business Leaders Alliance

CC:  
Members of the Senate Committee on Finance