



May 7, 2026

The Honorable Louis P. DiPalma, Chairman
Senate Finance Committee
State House
Providence, RI 02903

Re: S.2453, An Act Relating to Taxation – Levy and Assessment of Local Taxes

Dear Chairman DiPalma,

The undersigned members of the Rhode Island Business Coalition support the passage of S.2453, An Act Relating to Taxation – Levy and Assessment of Local Taxes and thank Senator Burke for introducing this legislation.

Under current law, any city or town may choose to opt in to a program to waive interest on one quarter of overdue residential property tax for owners that meet the following conditions:

- The residence has been owned for the five years immediately preceding the tax payment that is overdue
- The taxpayer requests the waiver in writing
- The taxpayer made timely payments of taxes for the five years immediately preceding the tax payment
- The payment that is overdue was issued less than two years prior to the date of the request for the waiver
- The waiver of interest is \$500 or less

This program seeks to assist property owners that have a positive track record, but experienced a temporary economic shortfall, perhaps missed a payment by mistake or encountered an illness that placed the payment of taxes on the back burner for a brief time, resulting in the payment of interest.

S.2453 gives cities and towns the option to extend the same program to commercial properties. Business owners, particularly small “Mom and Pop” establishments, face the same challenges as residential

[The Rhode Island Business Coalition represents 50 industries and 6,280 businesses that employ 231,200 people throughout Rhode Island.](#)

homeowners. A simple mistake, economic downturn or illness can result in owing the municipality interest that would better serve everyone by staying in the business to keep it operating.

We urge the committee to recommend passage of S.2453. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

David Chenevert, Chairman, Rhode Island Business Coalition
Associated Builders and Contractors – Rhode Island Chapter
East Greenwich Chamber of Commerce
Greater Newport Chamber of Commerce
National Federation of Independent Business
Rhode Island Association of Realtors
Rhode Island Hospitality Association
Rhode Island Small Business Economic Summit Regulations Subcommittee
Rhode Island Small Business Summit Tax and Budget Committee
Rhode Island Staffing Association

cc. The Honorable John Burke
Senate Finance Committee members