



April 16th, 2026

The Honorable Jacob Bissaillon
Chair, Senate Housing and Municipal Government Committee
Rhode Island State House
Providence, RI 02903

Re: Opposition to Senate Bill 2260

Dear Chair Bissaillon, Vice Chair DiMario, Secretary Rogers, and Distinguished Committee Members,

Rhode Island and Mortgage Finance Corporation (“RIHousing”) respectfully opposes Senate Bill 2260, *An Act Relating to Health and Safety – Building Benchmarking and Reporting Act of 2026*.

Senate Bill 2260 would require all buildings larger than 25,000 sq ft to report to the Office of Energy Resources (OER) on their energy usage annually. We are concerned that the OER does not currently have the staffing or infrastructure to identify, educate, train and communicate with all the property owners that would be subject to this requirement.

In the Governor’s Fiscal Year 2027 budget, he proposes legislation to create a state facilities benchmarking and performance standards program. This initiative would require the collection and reporting of annual energy use and greenhouse gas emissions data for state-owned and occupied buildings. Under the proposal, the Office of Energy Resources (OER) and the Department of Administration would be responsible for determining which facilities should be included in benchmarking and for establishing emission-reduction performance standards.

We believe this represents a more practical and achievable approach to energy benchmarking and performance standard development for Rhode Island. Notably, in 2025 OER released a report outlining recommended strategies for implementing benchmarking and performance standards for large public and private buildings. That report also identified several significant challenges associated with implementing a benchmarking program of the scale envisioned in this legislation.

We appreciate the opportunity to provide comments on this legislation and welcome continued dialogue on the most effective path forward for addressing this important issue.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Carol Ventura".

Carol Ventura
Executive Director