



Executive Office of Housing
State of Rhode Island
One Capitol Hill, 3rd Floor
Providence, RI 02908

April 2, 2026

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

Re: S 2274

Dear Chair Bissaillon:

The Executive Office of Housing (“EOH”) respectfully submits this letter of opposition to Senate Bill 2274, which would create a new process and definition for “substantial multi-family housing project” that would apply to municipalities with less than 40,000 residents. This change would subject these projects to much stricter scrutiny than other comprehensive permit projects. Ultimately, this bill is in direct opposition to the strategies laid out in *Housing 2030*, would make the development of needed housing more difficult, and rolls back positive reforms that have been enacted in recent General Assembly sessions.

We understand that different housing types and densities are appropriate for different communities throughout our state. *Housing 2030* does not prescribe a one-size-fits-all approach, but rather tailors housing development goals for each municipality depending on their proximity to jobs and transit. This bill, however, would make it harder for even our state’s smaller and more rural communities to reach their permitting goals. It would circumvent the comprehensive permit process and force developers of even moderately sized housing projects to navigate many more layers of bureaucracy in 33 out of the 39 municipalities in the state.

We thank the committee for their consideration of this testimony and urge members to oppose Senate Bill 2274. Instead, we ask members to support the policies put forward in *Housing 2030* and enable the development of housing throughout our state.

Sincerely,

Deborah J. Goddard
Secretary of Housing

CC: The Honorable Members of the Senate Housing and Municipal Government Committee
The Honorable Senator Andrew R. Dimitri
Kristin Silvia, Director of Legislation and Deputy Chief of Staff
Steven Hayes, Esquire, Chief Legal Counsel to the Senate President