



March 24, 2026

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

RE: S2423 - SUPPORT

Dear Chair Bissaillon:

On behalf of the Rhode Island Business Leaders Alliance, I write in strong support of S2423, which would require the implementation of electronic permitting for state and local permits impacting construction and development.

This legislation represents a practical, long-overdue modernization of Rhode Island's permitting framework and is directly aligned with the state's need to accelerate housing production, support economic development, and improve overall competitiveness.

As drafted, S2423 requires the state building commissioner to implement electronic permitting systems for categories of permits that significantly impact the speed of construction and development.

At a time when Rhode Island faces a well-documented housing shortage, the ability to move projects through permitting more quickly is essential.

By streamlining application, review, and approval processes, S2423 will: (1) Reduce unnecessary delays in residential construction; (2) Lower project costs tied to prolonged permitting timelines; and (3) Help bring new housing units online more quickly. This is one of the most effective, non-subsidy tools available to increase housing production.

States across the country have adopted electronic permitting systems as a baseline expectation for efficient governance. Importantly, the bill provides a structured path forward by: (1) Centralizing implementation through the state building commissioner; (2) Allowing for phased adoption across permit categories; and (3) Enabling coordination between state and local entities. This

ensures that modernization is achievable while maintaining appropriate oversight.

S2423 is a common-sense, high-impact reform that addresses one of the most consistent concerns raised by the business and development community: the time and uncertainty associated with permitting.

By modernizing permitting systems, Rhode Island can unlock housing production, reduce costs, and strengthen its economic competitiveness without imposing new mandates on taxpayers. For these reasons, the Rhode Island Business Leaders Alliance respectfully urges the Committee to support S2423.

We appreciate your consideration and stand ready to work with the sponsor and stakeholders as this legislation moves forward.

Sincerely,

Gregory Tumolo

Gregory Tumolo, Executive Director
Rhode Island Business Leaders Alliance

CC: Members of the Senate Housing and Municipal Government Committee