



*Distinctive Communities
Powerful Alliance*

March 26, 2026

The Honorable Jacob Bissaillon, Chair
Senate Housing and Municipal Government
Rhode Island Senate
82 Smith Street
Providence, RI 02903

RE: SENATE BILL 2423 – AN ACT RELATING TO HEALTH AND SAFETY -- STATE BUILDING CODE

Dear Chair Bissaillon and Honorable Committee Members,

On behalf of the Rhode Island League of Cities and Towns, thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony regarding Senate Bill 2423, which would implement a statewide uniform electronic permitting system for construction and development applications.

The League supports the underlying objectives of this legislation, particularly its potential to streamline permitting processes, reduce administrative burdens, and create a consistent statewide approach for municipalities and state agencies alike. Electronic permitting systems are an important tool to enhance efficiency, ensure transparency, and facilitate timely approvals for construction and development projects across Rhode Island.

We would like to specifically note the bill's funding mechanism, which allows for a minimal surcharge on permit applications to support the development, operation, and maintenance of the statewide electronic permitting system. By providing dedicated funding and reimbursement for associated costs, the legislation ensures that municipalities will not incur additional expenses to implement these important technological improvements. This approach preserves local resources while enabling cities and towns to benefit from a modernized, uniform permitting system.

We also recognize that municipalities vary in IT capacity and resources, and we look forward to working with the state to ensure technical support and guidance is available to facilitate smooth implementation across all communities. The phased implementation schedule and the allowance for commissioner discretion regarding extensions provide additional flexibility to accommodate local needs and operational realities.

For these reasons, the League supports Senate Bill 2423 and encourages its passage. We look forward to collaborating with the state and our municipal members to ensure a successful and efficient statewide electronic permitting system should this pass.

Thank you again for the opportunity to share our perspective and for your thoughtful consideration of this matter.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Randy R. Rossi".

Randy R. Rossi
Executive Director

Cc: Honorable Members of Senate Housing and Municipal Government