



*Distinctive Communities  
Powerful Alliance*

April 9, 2026

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

RE: SENATE BILL 2574 – AN ACT RELATING TO TOWNS AND CITIES -- GENERAL POWERS

Dear Chair Bissaillon and Honorable Committee Members,

On behalf of the Rhode Island League of Cities and Towns, we are writing to express our support for Senate Bill 2574, which relates to the regulation of powered landscape equipment. We appreciate the sponsor's thoughtful approach in crafting this legislation and thank them for bringing forward a proposal that seeks to balance consistency in statewide policy with appropriate municipal authority.

Senate Bill 2574 establishes a clear and uniform framework regarding the regulation of powered landscape equipment, while preserving important local controls. By prohibiting municipalities from enacting or enforcing ordinances that restrict equipment based solely on fuel type or power source, the bill provides clarity for residents, businesses, and equipment operators across Rhode Island. At the same time, the legislation appropriately maintains municipal authority to adopt reasonable, content-neutral noise regulations, establish hours of operation, and address legitimate public safety concerns.

Importantly, the bill also recognizes and respects existing local ordinances through its grandfathering provision. This ensures that communities which have already adopted regulations tailored to their specific needs may continue to enforce them, while preventing future inconsistencies that could create confusion or enforcement challenges. This balanced approach reflects a thoughtful understanding of both statewide interests and local governance.

From the League's perspective, Senate Bill 2574 supports predictability for municipalities and the public alike, while preserving key elements of local control. The ability for cities and towns to continue managing noise, operational hours, and safety concerns ensures that local officials can remain responsive to the needs and character of their communities.

The League appreciates the opportunity to provide comments and stands ready to work with the sponsor and the General Assembly as this legislation moves forward.

Thank you for the opportunity to share our perspective on this issue.

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