



April 2, 2026

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

RE: SENATE BILL 2578 – AN ACT RELATING TO TOWNS AND CITIES -- ZONING ORDINANCES

Dear Chair Bissaillon and Honorable Committee Members,

On behalf of the Rhode Island League of Cities and Towns, representing all 39 municipalities across the state, we respectfully submit testimony in support of Senate Bill 2578, which proposes amendments to R.I. Gen. Laws § 45-24-73 governing accessory dwelling units (ADUs).

This legislation builds upon the State's efforts to expand housing opportunities by establishing clearer and more consistent standards for the development of ADUs, while also preserving an appropriate degree of municipal discretion. As communities across Rhode Island continue to face housing supply challenges, ADUs represent a practical, incremental tool to increase housing availability in a manner that is compatible with existing neighborhoods.

The League supports provisions within the bill that promote uniformity and predictability in the ADU approval process. By clarifying what municipalities may and may not require, Senate Bill 2578 helps reduce uncertainty for both property owners and local officials, while ensuring that ADUs can be developed without unnecessary procedural barriers. At the same time, the legislation allows municipalities to exercise flexibility in key areas, including owner-occupancy requirements, affordability provisions, and reasonable size limitations beginning July 1, 2026. The bill also maintains safeguards that align with local planning and infrastructure considerations. Provisions allowing municipalities to require compliance with state building codes, address capacity-related infrastructure needs, and utilize unified development review processes help ensure that ADU growth remains thoughtful and sustainable.

Senate Bill 2578 strikes a balance between expanding housing opportunities and respecting municipal authority. It provides communities with a clearer framework to accommodate ADUs while maintaining appropriate local oversight and flexibility.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide these comments.

Sincerely,

Randy R. Rossi
Executive Director

Cc: Honorable Members of Senate Housing and Municipal Government