



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

April 9, 2026

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

RE: S 2903

Dear Chairman Bissaillon:

Thank you for the opportunity for the Executive Office of Housing (“EOH”) to provide comments on S 2903, which would create a new program to fund municipal planning efforts to restore natural habitats and enhance community resilience, outdoor recreation, and public access to the water. While EOH appreciates the intent of this bill, we wish to offer this letter of education in hopes of achieving the intended outcome through a simpler and more efficient means.

First, it is important to note that much of the activities that would be eligible for the new program established in this bill are already eligible for the Municipal Technical Assistance Program (“MTAP”) run by RIHousing in coordination with EOH. Building upon this existing program would be simpler and more efficient than establishing a new program.

Second, subsection 46-34-9 of this bill would require EOH to “revise their criteria when awarding housing development funds to prioritize municipalities that undergo the planning process” described in the bill. However, there is no mechanism for notifying EOH or any other pertinent state agency that such planning has occurred, leaving it unclear how these communities will be prioritized in practice.

For these reasons, EOH would respectfully suggest clarifying MTAP eligibility and consolidating the proposed funds into this existing, streamlined municipal assistance program. EOH appreciates the opportunity to comment on this bill and thanks you for your continued attention to housing concerns.

Sincerely,



Deborah J. Goddard  
Secretary of Housing

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