



OFFICE OF THE MAYOR
WOONSOCKET, RHODE ISLAND

April 6, 2026

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

Re: Support for Senate Bill 2912 – Abandoned Property

Dear Chair Bissaillon, Vice Chair DiMario, Secretary Rogers, and Distinguished Committee Members,

On behalf of the City of Woonsocket, I write in strong support of Senate Bill 2912, *An Act Relating to Property – Abandoned Property*. This legislation makes thoughtful and necessary updates to Rhode Island's Abandoned Property Act to ensure the law is used as intended: to address genuinely abandoned, unsafe, or nuisance properties while protecting responsible property owners.

The Abandoned Property Act can be a valuable tool to address blighted problem properties when used appropriately. Unfortunately, in recent years the absence of clear statutory standards has enabled the misuse of this process, resulting in properties which have no code violations or other infractions being targeted under the Law.

Senate Bill 2912 strengthens due process protections, ensures petitions focus only on properties with documented violations, and clarifies key definitions to prevent misuse of the statute. These reforms strike an important balance between enabling action on problematic properties and safeguarding responsible homeowners.

For Woonsocket, these reforms are particularly important as we continue revitalizing neighborhoods while supporting homeowners who responsibly maintain their properties. Clear, consistent stands will help us better identify genuinely distressed properties, enhance residents' quality of life, and strengthen trust between the City and the community.

We respectfully use the Committee to support Senate Bill 2912.

Sincerely,

Mayor Christopher Beauchamp
City of Woonsocket