

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 3029 – 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 write in support of Senate Bill 3029 concerning the regulation of powered landscape equipment. We thank the sponsor for bringing this legislation forward and for their careful consideration in addressing an issue that requires balancing uniform statewide standards with local decision-making authority.

This bill provides a uniform standard by clarifying that municipalities may not regulate powered landscape equipment based solely on the type of fuel or power source. Establishing this consistency across Rhode Island will help reduce confusion for residents, contractors, and small businesses that operate in multiple communities. At the same time, Senate Bill 3029 appropriately preserves key areas of local control by allowing cities and towns to continue enforcing reasonable, content-neutral noise ordinances, setting hours of operation, and adopting regulations necessary to protect public safety.

We also appreciate the inclusion of the grandfathering provision, which respects ordinances that were lawfully adopted prior to the bill's effective date. This ensures that municipalities that have already taken action based on local priorities may continue to do so, while preventing future patchwork approaches that could complicate compliance and enforcement.

Overall, this legislation strikes a thoughtful balance, providing clarity and predictability at the state level while maintaining the ability of local governments to respond to community-specific concerns. That balance is critical to effective governance and practical implementation.

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

Sincerely,



Randy R. Rossi
Executive Director

Cc: Honorable Members of Senate Housing and Municipal Government