



April 9, 2026

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

Re: S-3092 – An Act Relating to Towns and Cities – Rhode Island Comprehensive Planning and Land Use Act

To Chairman Bissaillon and Committee Members:

On behalf of the Rhode Island Chapter of the American Planning Association (APA-RI), thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony for S-3092, an amendment to the RI Comprehensive Planning and Land Use Act that would provide for the RI Division of Statewide Planning to be able to grant a one-time extension to communities that are actively updating their community's comprehensive plan.

This mechanism would be welcomed by the state's municipalities and would provide relief to those communities who are earnestly working towards updating and adopting their local comprehensive plans. Rewriting or updating a comprehensive plan is usually a multiple-year project and can sometimes require more time beyond the 10-year approval window currently allowed by law. The proposed criteria in the bill ensure that this extension amendment will only benefit those towns that are sincerely making efforts towards a new plan. This relief is especially needed during a period of time in which the State Planning Council is adding to the required content of local comprehensive plans and communities are working to address them.

Sincerely,

Sean Henry and Gregory Guertin,
Legislative Committee Co-Chairs

cc RI League of Cities and Towns