



*Distinctive Communities
Powerful Alliance*

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 3092 – AN ACT RELATING TO TOWNS AND CITIES -- RHODE ISLAND
COMPREHENSIVE PLANNING AND LAND USE ACT

Dear Chair Bissaillon and Honorable Committee Members,

The Rhode Island League of Cities and Towns appreciates the Committee’s consideration of Senate Bill 3092, a priority for our membership, and we are grateful to the sponsor for advancing this important measure.

Senate Bill 3092 would authorize municipalities to request a one-time, state-approved extension of the deadline for updating their comprehensive plans, provided the municipality can demonstrate that it is actively engaged in the update process.

By allowing cities and towns to extend their comprehensive plan update timeline by up to twelve months, while keeping the existing plan in full force and effect during that period, this legislation provides critical flexibility for municipalities working through complex planning processes. Importantly, the bill establishes a clear and practical framework for determining “active engagement,” allowing the Rhode Island Division of Statewide Planning to consider factors such as the initiation of the update process, procurement of professional services, public outreach efforts, coordination with state agencies, and the submission of draft materials for review.

This thoughtful approach supports municipal capacity and recognizes the realities of local planning, while also reinforcing coordination with the Division to ensure extensions are granted in a structured and accountable manner. Maintaining the validity of existing comprehensive plans during the extension period is especially important, as it allows municipalities to preserve zoning consistency, meet regulatory requirements, and remain eligible for critical state and federal funding opportunities without interruption.

The League strongly supports Senate Bill 3092, as it addresses a meaningful need for cities and towns across Rhode Island. We look forward to continued collaboration with the Division of Statewide Planning and the General Assembly to ensure effective implementation and to further strengthen municipal planning efforts statewide.

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

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Randy R. Rossi".

Randy R. Rossi
Executive Director

Cc: Honorable Members of Senate Housing and Municipal Government