



May 7, 2024

The Honorable Marvin L. Abney  
House Finance Committee  
Rhode Island State House  
82 Smith St.  
Providence RI, 02903

RE: Bill Number: 7032 RELATING TO TOWNS AND CITIES -- AWARD OF MUNICIPAL CONTRACTS

Dear Chairman Abney and Honorable Members of the House Finance Committee:

I am writing to express our support for House Bill 7032, which proposes amendments to increase the maximum state and municipal small purchase limits for construction projects and other purchases. The League, along with its members, fully endorses this change due to the prevailing rise in the costs of goods and services since the onset of 2020.

The proposed amendment, as outlined in Title 45 Towns and Cities Chapter 55-9, is pivotal in allowing cities and towns to adapt to current economic realities without necessitating cumbersome and time-consuming charter amendments. By raising the small purchase thresholds to \$25,000 for construction projects and \$10,000 for other purchases, municipalities will have the flexibility to efficiently conduct necessary business transactions on behalf of their residents.

We are optimistic about a key improvement in this year's bill compared to its predecessor. It will allow cities and towns to adopt new thresholds through ordinance, simplifying the process and eliminating the need for voter approval to amend local charters or any further legislative action by the General Assembly. This flexibility is vital for enabling local governments to respond promptly to economic shifts while responsibly managing public funds.

The RI League of Cities and Towns recognizes the importance of supporting legislation that empowers municipalities to navigate economic challenges and fulfill community needs efficiently. We appreciate the thoughtfulness behind House Bill 7032 and commend its alignment with the evolving requirements of our local governments.

On behalf of the League of Cities and Towns, thank you for considering our testimony.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "David M. Bodah".

David M. Bodah  
Associate Director

Cc: House Finance Committee  
Ernie Almonte, Executive Director