



**STATE OF RHODE ISLAND**  
**Rhode Island Department of Housing**  
**80 Washington Street, 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor**  
**Providence, RI 02903**

March 27, 2024

The Honorable Robert E. Craven, Chair  
House Judiciary Committee  
State House  
Providence, Rhode Island 02903

RE: In general support for H 7948, H 7950, and H 7951

Dear Chairman Craven,

We write in general support for bills H7948, H7950, and H7951, which are part of Speaker Shekarchi's 2024 housing package aiming to address Rhode Island's housing challenges.

Housing affordability continues to be a crucial issue in Rhode Island and we thank the General Assembly and Speaker Shekarchi for continuing to prioritize this matter. Increasing housing production is essential to addressing our housing affordability challenges. The Speaker's leadership in this effort has been an enormous asset to the state of Rhode Island. The work that has gone into these bills, connecting with municipal leaders, engaging with stakeholders, and listening to the public leads to a housing package that is ambitious and achievable.

H7948 makes inclusionary zoning more achievable at the municipal level. The Department acknowledges that there are often significant financial challenges for development projects -- especially those incorporating units that are affordable to low- and moderate-income Rhode Islanders.

H7950 would require cities and towns to allow up to three disclosed options on the types of financial security to be provided by developers on projects that include public improvements. The Department believes this is a helpful step to allow for greater flexibility in development, while maintaining important financial guarantees, as well.

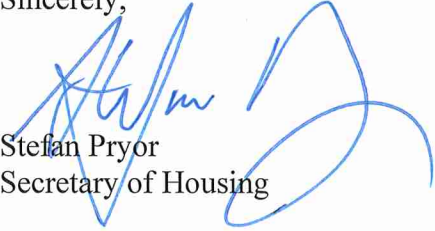
H7951 aims to clarify the circumstances under which a municipality can limit accepting and hearing development applications and limiting building permits.

We would like to thank this committee and Speaker Shekarchi for the continued work on housing issues and for the opportunity to comment on this important housing package. We

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look forward to continuing to dialogue about these specific bills and other ways to advance housing development in Rhode Island.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Stefan Pryor', is written over the typed name and title.

Stefan Pryor  
Secretary of Housing

CC: The Honorable Members of the House Judiciary Committee  
Nicole McCarty, Esquire, Chief Legal Counsel to the Speaker of the House  
Lynne Urbani, Director of House Policy