



STATE OF RHODE ISLAND  
Rhode Island Department of Housing  
80 Washington Street  
Providence, RI 02903

March 18, 2025

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

RE: H 5794 and H 5795

Dear Chairman Craven:

On behalf of the Rhode Island Department of Housing, I write in strong support of the bills heard tonight that are within Speaker Shekarchi's Housing Package, which are H 5794 and H 5795. These bills build upon the General Assembly's efforts to address the housing challenges within Rhode Island and closely align with the State's housing plan, *Housing 2030*.

Increasing housing production is essential to improving affordability, particularly the development of affordable housing. H 5794 would streamline the development review process and increase the amount of time that an approval of a major subdivision or land development covers. This bill also clarifies definitions under the adaptive reuse section and ensures that at least 10% of units in adaptive reuse projects are affordable to low- and moderate-income households. Additionally, this bill includes important changes to the Transit Oriented Development Pilot Program, making the program more flexible. H 5795 would change the required timeline for issuing a zoning certificate from 15 to 20 days. It is important to ensure that municipal officials have requisite time to conduct their reviews of housing developments. This bill seems to be responsive to municipal feedback.

I would like to thank this Committee and the bill sponsors for their continued leadership and partnership on housing issues. I look forward to collaborating on these policies and implementation of the *Housing 2030* plan. Thank you for your time and your consideration of these comments.

Sincerely,

Deborah J. Goddard  
Secretary of Housing

CC: The Honorable Members of the House Judiciary Committee  
The Honorable Representative Tina Spears  
The Honorable Representative June Speakman  
The Honorable Representative Susan Donovan  
The Honorable Representative Carol Hagan McEntee  
The Honorable Representative Jason Knight  
The Honorable Representative Megan L. Cotter  
The Honorable Representative Jennifer Boylan  
The Honorable Representative Justine Caldwell  
The Honorable Representative Matthew S. Dawson  
The Honorable Representative William W. O'Brien

Nicole McCarty, Esquire, Chief Legal Counsel to the Speaker of the House  
Lynne Urbani, Director of House Policy