



CITY OF CENTRAL FALLS
MAYOR MARIA RIVERA

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February 1, 2024

Hon. Stephen M. Casey
Chair, House Committee on Municipal Government & Housing
Rhode Island State House
Providence, RI 02903

RE: SUPPORT – House Bill No. 7109 (Voas, Giraldo, Alzate, Cruz, Hull, DeSimone, Potter, Slater, O'Brien) ENTITLED, AN ACT RELATING TO TOWNS AND CITIES -- REDEVELOPMENT PROJECTS

To Honorable Chair Casey:

I am writing today in support of House Bill 7109 by Representative Voas; important legislation which will further the progress of Central Falls in building housing for our community.

The purpose of this legislation, requested by the City of Central Falls, is to allow properties owned by the Central Falls Redevelopment Agency to be exempt from taxation. The law is enabling and requires approval of the city council to be enacted.

In recent years, Central Falls re-activated its redevelopment agency as part of our agenda to build more than 200 units of housing. Thanks to the work of this committee, we were subsequently able to utilize new housing monies such as the Site Acquisition Program to acquire properties and then transfer the properties to the redevelopment agency to catalyze housing development. This legislation would allow the city to exempt those properties in line for critical development projects. Currently, state law permits this process for the redevelopment agencies in Providence and Pawtucket.

Thank you in advance for your consideration of this important legislation and for your ongoing efforts to break down the barriers to building much-needed housing in our great state.

Sincerely Yours,

Maria Rivera
Mayor

Cc: Representative Kathleen A. Fogarty, First Vice Chair
Representative June Speakman, Second Vice Chair
Representative Karen Alzate
Representative José F. Batista
Representative Cherie L. Cruz
Representative Matthew S. Dawson
Representative Anthony J. DeSimone
Representative John G. Edwards
Representative Katherine S. Kazarian
Representative David Morales
Representative Patricia L. Morgan
Representative Brian C. Newberry
Representative Evan P. Shanley
Representative Tina L. Spears