

**Commissioners:**  
Chair James Seveney  
Vice-Chair Terri Cortvriend  
Gary Gump  
Ronald Harnois  
Sharlene Stoker Patton

**Portsmouth Housing Authority  
Town of Portsmouth, Rhode Island  
Board of Commissioners**



**TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF H-7323**

From: James A. Seveney

To: Hon. Stephen Casey, Chairman - House Municipal Government & Housing

**Subj: Support for House Bill No. [7323](#) by Cortvriend, McGaw, Speakman**

Dear Chairman Casey,

I am writing you and the Committee to offer strong support from the Portsmouth Housing Authority (PHA) Board of Commissioners for passage of this needed enabling legislation.

The PHA Board has been working closely with the Town of Portsmouth for several years to improve and upgrade the material and fiscal condition of "Quaker Manor", an important public housing asset for elderly/disabled/low-income citizens located in Portsmouth. This federally subsidized housing, built in the 1960's, includes apartment units for 40 residents/families. The actions taken over the past six years to maintain and improve the property has put enormous strain on our resources and ability to continue operating safely and effectively.

The Town of Portsmouth has been a generous and essential partner assisting the PHA as we have implemented required property maintenance and improvements, restructured operations, and worked with HUD and private business to stabilize our fiscal condition. We have made significant progress, but still have work ahead of us in achieving the healthy financial condition necessary to ensure our residents have a stable housing solution well into the future.

The Town's approval of this partial tax abatement, which is limited to 5 years or less, is critical to our successful completion of the fiscal restructuring plans we are pursuing to keep Quaker Manor viable for current and future residents indefinitely. The Town Council recognizes the importance of this action, as indicated in their resolution supporting H-7323.

The PHA Board is grateful for the Town's unflagging support, and we implore your committee to move this Bill to the House floor for passage, allowing the Town to grant this needed financial support for a critical housing asset.

On behalf of the PHA Board of Commissioners, I thank you for your attention and wish you the best for a successful and productive 2024 legislative session.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Jim".

Jim Seveney, Chairman