



March 28, 2024

The Honorable Stephen M. Casey
Chairman Municipal Government and Housing Committee
Rhode Island State House
82 Smith St
Providence RI, 02903

RE: Bill Number: 7980 RESOLUTION CREATING A SPECIAL LEGISLATIVE COMMISSION

Dear Chairman Casey and Honorable Members of the Municipal Government and Housing Committee:

I am writing to express our support for House Bill 7980, which proposes to allow manufactured homes to be constructed in accordance with HUD Regulations as an alternative option to stick-built homes in areas where single-family housing is permitted. This legislation presents an opportunity to expand housing options, promote affordability, and increase access to homeownership for residents across our state.

The inclusion of manufactured homes as a viable housing option is a crucial step towards addressing our community's diverse housing needs. By recognizing these homes as an alternative to traditional stick-built construction, House Bill 7980 empowers individuals and families to pursue homeownership in a manner that is both cost-effective and sustainable.

However, it is important to acknowledge the concerns raised by our members regarding the definition of manufactured homes versus mobile homes. The distinction between these terms is significant, particularly in ensuring that manufactured homes are recognized as permanent structures on a foundation, rather than transient or temporary dwellings.

Therefore, the League's position advocating for a definition that clearly defines manufactured homes as permanent structures on a foundation persists. This ensures uniformity and cohesion in our housing policies, while also offering clarity to homeowners, developers, and regulatory agencies alike. By properly aligning the definition of manufactured homes, House Bill 7980 can help dispel misconceptions and stigma surrounding manufactured housing, while also fostering greater acceptance and integration of these homes within our communities.

The RI League of Cities and Towns remains dedicated to advancing housing affordability, diversity, and inclusivity, all while striving towards our collective aim of ensuring secure, stable, and sustainable housing options for all 39 cities and towns.

On behalf of the League of Cities and Towns thank you for allowing us the opportunity to express our views.

Sincerely,

David M. Bodah
Associate Director

Cc: Honorable Members of the Municipal Government and Housing Committee
Ernie Almonte, Executive Director, RILCT