

The Honorable Stephen Casey,

May 9, 2024

The Honorable Stephen M. Casey

Chair, House Committee on Municipal Government and Housing

Rhode Island State House

Providence, RI 02903

Re: Support for H7981 (Duplexes and Mixed-use Districts)

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

I hope this message finds you well. I am writing in support of bill H7981, which proposes to allow more duplexes across the state and more apartments in commercial zones.

I'm a strong proponent of allowing our communities to grow and make Rhode Island a desirable place to live. As a homeowner I wish for others to have the same opportunities as me and afford to live in our beautiful state. It's why I support this bill since duplexes and mixed-use districts help in remediating our housing shortage.

I urge you to support a strong version of this extremely important bill so that residents can continue to afford a home in the state that we all love. In particular:

- Please maintain the provision legalizing duplexes by right on at least 30% of the developable land in each city and town (which the city or town can choose how to implement); and
- Please legalize mixed-use districts broadly. One district per city and town is not enough, particularly without guardrails to ensure that districts are designed meaningfully.

Thank you for your consideration.

Respectfully,

Nadim Kawwa,

Providence

Nadim Kawwa

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