

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 am writing in support of bill H7981, which proposes to allow more duplexes across the state and more apartments in commercial zones.

Rhode Island is a wonderful place to live, and my wife and I have been happy here for almost twenty years. For all that time, we've been renting, but we'd like to own a home someday. For me, RI's one major downside is that homeownership is unaffordable for us and some many other middle class Rhode Islanders. There is a clear way to address this issue, and it's supported by research and evidence: increasing supply. High rents and low vacancies both attest to RI's status as a state without nearly enough housing. Building more housing, while I'm all in favor it, is often opposed because people in the affected communities fear traffic, noise and changes to neighborhood character. The type of gentle density promoted by H7981 is exactly the sort of legislative change we need to enable growth while minimizing costs to existing homeowners and renters.

Paul Flynn

[paulflynn@gmail.com](mailto:paulflynn@gmail.com)

27 Preston Street

Providence, Rhode Island 02906