

April 2, 2024

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

RE: Bill Number: 8077 AN ACT RELATING TO PUBLIC PROPERTY AND WORKS -- MANAGEMENT AND DISPOSAL OF PROPERTY

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

I am writing to express our support for House Bill 8077, which seeks to prohibit any state-chartered fire district from liquidating or disposing of real or tangible property without first offering the property to the municipality in which the fire district is located. This legislation represents an important measure to safeguard the interests of local communities and ensure responsible management of public assets.

The proposed requirement for state-chartered fire districts to offer surplus property to the municipality before disposal is a commonsense approach to promoting transparency and accountability in the decision-making process. By providing municipalities with the opportunity to acquire surplus property, House Bill 8077 empowers local governments to assess the potential value and utility of such assets for the benefit of their constituents.

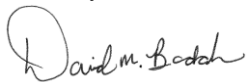
Furthermore, this legislation helps to foster collaboration and cooperation between fire districts and municipalities, facilitating mutual understanding and alignment of interests. By working together to identify opportunities for the utilization or repurposing of surplus property, fire districts and municipalities can maximize the value of public resources and promote the efficient delivery of essential services to residents.

In addition to enhancing local decision-making authority, House Bill 8077 contributes to the preservation of community assets and the promotion of long-term sustainability. By preventing hasty or uninformed liquidation of property, this legislation helps to protect valuable public resources and ensure their continued availability for the benefit of current and future generations.

We believe that House Bill 8077 reflects a commitment to responsible governance and prudent stewardship of public assets. I urge you to support this important legislation, recognizing its significance in promoting transparency, accountability, and collaboration in the management of state-chartered fire districts.

On behalf of the League of Cities and Towns, thank you for considering our concerns.

Sincerely,



David M. Bodah
Associate Director

Cc: House Municipal Government and Housing Committee
Representative Solomon
Ernie Almonte, Executive Director