



*Distinctive Communities
Powerful Alliance*

The Honorable Stephen M. Casey, Chair
House Municipal Government and Housing
Rhode Island House of Representatives
82 Smith Street
Providence, RI 02903

RE: Support for House Bill H-5269 – RELATING TO TAXATION -- LEVY AND ASSESSMENT OF LOCAL TAXES

Dear Chairman Casey and Honorable Committee Members,

On behalf of the Rhode Island League of Cities and Towns, I am writing to express our support for House Bill H-5269, which would grant municipalities flexibility to waive interest on overdue commercial property taxes, with a cap of five hundred dollars (\$500) per tax bill.

This legislation provides municipalities with an important tool to address local needs in a way that best serves their unique communities. By allowing—but not mandating—this waiver, H-5269 upholds the League’s core principle of preserving municipal authority and autonomy. Cities and towns across Rhode Island are best positioned to determine when such relief is appropriate, particularly in cases where businesses face temporary financial hardships.

Ensuring that municipalities have this discretionary option strikes a balance between fiscal responsibility and economic development, allowing local leaders to make informed decisions that support businesses while maintaining stable municipal revenues.

We appreciate your leadership on this issue and stand ready to support this bill throughout the legislative process to ensure Rhode Island’s cities and towns have the necessary tools to govern effectively and serve their communities.

Thank you for your time and consideration of our perspective on H-5269.

Regards,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "C.J.", is positioned above the typed name.

Charles J. Donovan Jr.
Senior Policy and Legislative Affairs

Cc: Honorable Members of House Municipal Government and Housing
Honorable Thomas E. Noret, Deputy Majority Leader
Chief Legal Counsel Nicole McCarty
Randy R. Rossi, Executive Director -RILCT