



March 20, 2025

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

RE: BILL NUMBER H-5450 – AN ACT RELATING TO PUBLIC PROPERTY AND WORKS -- ALL-ELECTRIC BUILDING ACT

Dear Chair Casey and Honorable Committee Members,

On behalf of the Rhode Island League of Cities and Towns, I write to express our concerns regarding House Bill 5450, which would prohibit cities and towns from issuing permits for the construction of new buildings that are not all-electric if the initial application for a permit is submitted after December 31, 2026, except under certain circumstances.

While we appreciate the sponsor's intent to advance environmental sustainability and energy efficiency, we respectfully urge caution regarding the unintended consequences this legislation may have on our member municipalities. Each city and town have unique planning, infrastructure, and economic development considerations that must be taken into account. A one-size-fits-all approach may not align with the independent needs of each community, and local leaders should have the opportunity to evaluate the feasibility, costs, and infrastructure readiness for such a mandate.

To that end, we respectfully request additional input and dialogue with municipalities to ensure that any policy changes account for local capacity, economic impact, and the diverse needs of Rhode Island's 39 cities and towns. Our members must be included in these discussions to ensure a balanced approach that supports both sustainability goals and practical implementation at the local level.

We appreciate your time and consideration of our concerns. The League stands ready to collaborate with you and other stakeholders to find solutions that promote energy efficiency while maintaining municipal flexibility and local decision-making authority. Please do not hesitate to reach out should you wish to discuss this matter further.

Sincerely,

Randy R. Rossi  
Executive Director

Cc: Honorable Members of House Municipal Government and Housing