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Sustainable Economic Growth
& Quality of Place

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March 10, 2010

Representative John J. McCauley, Jr.
Chairperson
House Committee on Municipal Government
Rhode Island General Assembly
State House
Providence, RI 02903

RE: House Bill 7533

Dear Representative McCauley:

I am writing on behalf of Grow Smart Rhode Island to express our strong opposition to House Bill 7533, which would repeal the Rhode Island Land Development and Subdivision Review Enabling Act of 1992.

Between 1988 and 1992, acting on the recommendation of a commission established by the General Assembly, the General Assembly enacted three pieces of legislation that together enable Rhode Island municipalities to plan for the futures of their communities and to implement those plans through their zoning ordinances and subdivision regulations. That suite of acts was nationally recognized as some of the most advanced planning legislation in the country. The legislation being considered today would eliminate one of those three acts.

In so doing, it would deprive municipalities of the ability to provide for orderly, thorough and expeditious review and approval of land development and subdivisions, thereby creating a situation that would not only be detrimental to individual municipalities but would also be harmful to the building and development community.

Furthermore, it would remove municipal authority

- to promote protection of the existing natural and built environment;
- to promote integration of land developments and subdivisions with surrounding neighborhoods;
- to concentrate development in areas which can best support intensive use by reason of natural characteristics and existing infrastructure;
- to encourage local design and improvement standards to reflect the intent of community comprehensive plans.

In short, it would eliminate municipalities' ability to manage their future growth.

We strongly urge the Committee to table this legislation.

Sincerely,

Scott Wolf
Executive Director