

# State of Rhode Island and Providence Plantations

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Committee on  
Special Legislation and  
Veterans' Affairs

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## Statement to RI Center for Freedom and Prosperity regarding RhodeMap RI

I have seen first-hand the impact that HUD and state affordable housing mandates have had on creating an imbalance in Woonsocket's tax base by adding an extra real estate tax burden on non-subsidized commercial and residential property owners in our community.

The state mandate to establish a preferential property tax cap on subsidized properties in Woonsocket has caused a revenue shortfall. The Woonsocket legislative delegation submitted a bill in 2013 to the General Assembly seeking relief from this mandate, but supporters of the affordable housing/sustainable development movement successfully lobbied to have the bill vetoed by Governor Chafee.

The prospect of a state-run Urban Redevelopment Authority granted new powers as envisioned in the RhodeMap RI draft plan is also concerning, in that it could give expanded government control over individual property owner rights.

As recommended in the bi-partisan letter I co-signed along with concerned members of the House and Senate to the Division of Planning in November, the RhodeMap RI process must be indefinitely postponed. More public scrutiny, comment and potential revisions are required.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Marc A. Cote".

Marc A. Cote  
Deputy Majority Leader  
Senator, District 24  
Woonsocket, North Smithfield