

July 14, 2020

The Honorable Marvin A. Abney
Chairman - House Committee on Finance
State House
Providence, RI 02903



*Subject: Support for \$65,900,000 School Construction Bond -
Portsmouth*

Dear Chairman Abney and Members of the Committee:

On behalf of the member companies of The Rhode Island Chapter of Associated General Contractors ("RIAGC"), I write in support of House Bill 8096 to authorize the Town of Portsmouth to issue \$65,900,000 in general obligation bonds to finance much needed plans to renovate, repair, and replace school facilities in the town.

This investment is part of a comprehensive effort to fix rapidly aging and unsafe schools across the state. This bond will ensure that adequate funding is available to fix our schools the right way, one time, rather than the band-aid approach that has led us to this point. Indeed, several years ago, students walked out of classes at Newport's Rogers High School because of the deteriorating conditions there, including mold and unstable floors.

This funding will ensure our students can focus on their education in a well-equipped, safe, 21st century facility.

Additionally, this public investment will have a positive economic impact in our state. If approved by the voters, this \$65,900,000 school construction bond will generate \$105M in total economic output, including direct and indirect spending, and it will generate approximately 773 construction, indirect, and induced jobs over the course of the project.

Over the past several years, the Governor, the General Treasurer, and the General Assembly have worked together to support similar investments in our state's infrastructure, helping to bring back skilled, well-paying jobs in construction that were lost during the last recession. Your leadership is working to improve the quality of life in Rhode Island, providing better educational outcomes for our young people, and building a stronger economy through job growth. We urge you to continue down this path.

Thank you in advance for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Kerrie Bennett
Executive Director

RIAGC Member Companies

A.F. Lusi Construction, Inc. | Bacon Construction Co., Inc. | Bond Brothers | E. Turgeon Construction Corporation
E.W. Burman, Inc. | Gilbane Building Company | H.V. Collins Co. | H. Carr & Son | Hart Engineering
Maron Construction Co., Inc. | R.P. Iannuccillo & Sons | Shawmut Design & Construction | Suffolk Construction Co., Inc.