



# PROVIDENCE REVOLVING FUND

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June 10, 2020

Hon. Marvin L. Abney  
Chairman  
House Finance Committee

RE: H 7246

Dear Chairman Abney,

I am writing today to express my support for H 7246-calling for the repeal of the Sunset Provision that was embedded in the original Historic Tax Credit (HTC) legislation from 2013. The Sunset Provision, which originally sunset in 2016, has been extended several times by the General Assembly. At the end of last year's session the sunset provision was extended by one-year. This bill eliminate the sunset which would allow approved projects to move forward and will continue to leverage additional investment, provide construction jobs and incentivize the preservation of Rhode Island's historic structures.

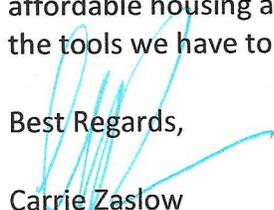
Since the inception of the Rhode Island State Historic Tax Credit, more than 300 historic buildings throughout Rhode Island have been rehabilitated using Historic Tax Credits, representing more than \$1.8 Billion in private investment. A 2017 study by PlaceEconomics found that fifty cents of every dollar of Historic Tax Credits is returned to the state through sales, income, and corporate taxes received before any credits are even awarded, since all projects must be complete before state funds are released.

Unless the General Assembly acts, the program will sunset on June 30, 2020. Currently there are 36 projects on the waiting list, representing \$276 Million in private investment to redevelop historic buildings in Rhode Island.

A repeal of the sunset will not impact the state budget, since all the funds have been accounted for and capped. Please enact House Bill 7246 which repeals the sunset.

Thanks so much for your past support for historic tax credits. At a time when the need for affordable housing and living-wage employment are high it would detrimental to lose any of the tools we have to improve our economy.

Best Regards,

  
Carrie Zaslow  
Executive Director