

Chris O'Brien

From: Alvin Reyes <areyes@ibew99.org>
Sent: Monday, February 12, 2024 1:22 PM
To: House Finance Committee
Subject: House Bill No.7225- Article 5 GO Bonds Question 2 - State Archives

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Respectfully Addressed To:

Chair Marvin L. Abney and members of the House Finance Committee,
Rep. Scott A. Slater- First Vice Chair
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Rep. Nathan W. Biah
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Rep. Raymond A. Hull
Rep. George A. Nardone
Rep. William W. O'Brien
Rep. Brian J. Rea
Rep. Teresa A. Tanzi
Rep. Camille Vella-Wilkinson

RE: House Bill No.7225 (Governor) BY Abney ENTITLED, AN ACT MAKING APPROPRIATIONS FOR THE SUPPORT OF THE STATE FOR THE FISCAL YEAR ENDING JUNE 30, 2025 {LC4143/1} 01/18/2024 Introduced, referred to House Finance Article 5 GO Bonds Question 2 – State Archives

DATE: Tuesday, February 13, 2024 TIME: Rise of the House PLACE: Room 35 - State House SUBJECT:Governor's 2025 Budget (H 7225)

My name is Alvin Reyes . I am *Membership Development Coordinator and Executive Board member of The International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers LU 99, Executive Board Member of RI Labor History Society , organizations both for which will be submitting testimony in Support of Article 5 of the Governor's proposed budget which would place Bond question 2 on the ballot for the State Archives.* Also, I am honored to sit as a member of the *Archives Working group* with a diverse group of individuals that represent various professions, industries, communities, philanthropic organizations, historians and historical preservationists. *I support the passing for Article 5 of the Governor's proposed budget which would place Bond question 2 on the ballot for the State Archives by the House Finance Committee.* We have held openly public meetings all over the State and listened to many citizens and professional opinions regarding the proposed State Archive facility. We have discussed many possible scenarios and evaluated facts concerning building a new facility. I believe from the information provided to me, that building a State Archives makes a more financial ,realistic approach to accommodate the needs of this State. I was amazed to learn that RI is the only State in the country with our Archives in a commercially –leased space that in reality is not equipped to store some of RI's most precious documents and assets. I was raised in RI and have learned throughout my 35 years residing here, how the smallest State in the country is filled with such rich history. I could only imagine how beneficial having an institution that could serve our educators, students, tourism industry , but most importantly residents of the

5th original 13 colonies. The year 2036 will mark 400 years since the date of the original settling of RI. It would be such a proud moment for our State to finally have a facility that can commemorate , and preserve the historic event.

With Best Regards,

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