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February 13, 2024

Hon. Marvin L. Abney
c/o HouseFinance@rilegislature.gov
Chairman
House Committee on Finance, Room 35
State House
Providence, RI 02903

Re: Support for Article 5, Rhode Island State Archive General Obligation Bond

Dear Chairman Abney:

BuildRI is a domestic non-profit trade association comprised of four (4) contractor associations (the Labor Relations Division of the RI Chapter of the Associated General Contractors, the New England Mechanical Contractors' Ass'n, the RI Mason Contractors' Ass'n, and the RI and Southeast MA Chapter of the National Electrical Contractors' Ass'n), and sixteen (16) Local Trade Unions that make up the Rhode Island Building and Construction Trades Council representing an approximately 10,000 local tradesmen and women. On behalf of our organization, I write in SUPPORT of the above referred to Budget Article for the reasons that follow.

This proposed bond question will ask the voters of our state to approve \$60,000,000 for the construction of a new Rhode Island State Archives and History Center.

Rhode Island has a rich and cultural significant history. The State Archives contains invaluable treasures of Rhode Island's and our country's history that are essential in our democracy. Accordingly, these documents, artifacts, and other archives need their own dedicated space. So that the public can be educated and understand the challenges our forefathers took towards maintaining our democracy. This bond will ensure our state's history is properly preserved, while generating needed economic growth in the construction industry. If approved by the voters, these projects will create hundreds of well-paying middle-class jobs for local skilled tradesmen and women. Not only will the construction production lead to economic development, the newly constructed state archive will be a cultural and educational destination for visitors to experience all Rhode Island has to offer. Accordingly, for the foregoing reasons we urge you to SUPPORT passage of this budget Article.

Thank you for your time and attention to this matter. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact the undersigned.

Sincerely,

Gregory A. Mancini
Executive Director/General Counsel

Michael F. Sabitoni
Vice Chair