



LIUNA!

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February 22, 2024

Hon. Marvin L. Abney
Chairperson, House Committee on Finance
c/o HouseFinance@rilegislature.gov

Re: SUPPORT of the GO Bonds Question 2 – State Archives

Dear Chairperson Abney,

On behalf of the over 10,000 members of the Laborers' International Union of North America (LIUNA) in Rhode Island, I write in **SUPPORT of the GO Bonds Question 2 – State Archives** that will give voters the opportunity to decide on \$60M to support the State Archives Building Project. A dedicated State Archives Building will protect and preserve Rhode Island's vast collection of historic documents and artifacts dating back to the establishment of our Country and State. Rhode Island remains the only state without a dedicated archive building.

This significant capital investment is important for the proper protection, preservation, and viewing opportunities of historical artifacts. Creating a public gathering space that serves education, cultural, and tourism purposes for the citizens of Rhode Island and beyond. This building is envisioned as a multi-function space for events, meetings, and public gatherings and will serve as an anchor between our beautiful and well visited State House, truly a signature building in our capital city of Providence.

The State Archives Building Project is a significant construction investment and a project that will create hundreds of family-supporting union construction jobs, furthering the economic growth we are seeing throughout our State. Additionally, there are exciting opportunities for public-private investment and foundation partners to create this space in honoring our history and embracing technology to truly showcase Rhode Island.

I respectfully urge the committee to **SUPPORT** this bond question to give voters the chance to voice their support. Thank you in advance for your consideration and your attention to so many issues that affect our members.

With kind regards, I remain

Sincerely yours,

DONATO A. BIANCO, JR.
Vice President
and New England Regional Manager

DAB/al

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