



## RHODE ISLAND LABOR HISTORY SOCIETY

To: House Finance Committee  
From: James Parisi, President  
Date: February 27, 2024  
Re: **Rhode Island State Archives**  
Testimony on Article 5 of State Budget

The Rhode Island Labor History Society is an all-volunteer group of individuals and organizations who are dedicated to promote and preserve the history of Rhode Island workers. Founded in 1987, we have approximately 300 members who support the organization and attend the events we host every year.

The proposed Rhode Island State Archives is a project that has been considered for years. The RILHS is excited that Secretary of State Gregg Amore is continuing the work of making the building of a State Archives a reality. We are also appreciative of Governor McKee for providing an opportunity for voters to approve a bond to build a State Archives.

After reviewing the proposal related to the Archives, the Rhode Island Labor History Society Executive Board unanimously voted on February 10, 2024 to support Article 5 and the proposed building of a State Archives.

As an organization dedicated to history, we support projects that disseminate information about important historical events to the population. The Archives building will not only house valuable Rhode Island historical documents, but it will provide opportunities to host exhibits on all aspects of Rhode Island history.

We are particularly mindful of our history this year, the 200<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Pawtucket Turnout of 1824. The event will be recognized at the First Strike Festival at Slater Mill on May 11, 2024. The US National Parks Service recognizes this as the first industrial strike in the US, a strike led by women weavers in Pawtucket.

Rhode Island has a lot of important stories to tell, and the construction of a State Archives will allow those stories to be told to a wider audience. Please support the placement of the State archives on the ballot this November.