

T-Time Productions



February 23, 2024

Chairman
House Committee on Finance
State of Rhode Island General Assembly
82 Smith Street
Providence, RI 02903

Re: Written Testimony – bond funding for construction of a new Rhode Island State Archives and History Center

Chairman Abney:

My name is Theresa Moore and I am the President/Owner of T-Time Productions, a media production and educational publishing company located in Pawtucket, Rhode Island. I am also a Professor at Providence College, teaching and/or having taught in the MBA, Urban Education, Global Studies and School of Continuing Education programs. Please consider this letter my written testimony in support of Article 5, Question 2, relating to bonds in the amount of sixty million dollars (\$60,000,000) for the construction of a new Rhode Island State Archives and History Center.

Currently, Rhode Island is the only state in the country where the State Archives reside in a commercially leased office space, an arrangement that costs the State approximately \$280,000 annually. Additionally, due to the limited size of the current space, many of the Archives' materials are not easily accessible including over 4000 boxes which are stored offsite and not readily available to the public.

Many of my company's projects and educational curricula utilize primary source documents including photos, documents and resources from institutions such as the Library of Congress, the National Archives and Records Administration (NARA) and the Schomburg Center for Research in Black Culture. The ability to have archival resources that are accessible and digitally available is an invaluable component of my company's work and my graduate level teaching. Unfortunately, for T-Time's Rhode Island-based projects, such as the 1st Rhode Island Regiment virtual tour or the indigent cemetery located on the property of the Rhode Island Training School or for assignments for my Providence College graduate students, it can be a time-consuming and cumbersome process to research and access materials in the RI State Archives due to the lack of a

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central location to house archival materials and resources. Lack of digital access to materials limits the engagement/interaction by those researchers, curricula writers and/or graduate students who are not able to visit the Archives in person.

The proposed Rhode Island State Archives and History Center would be both a cultural and educational destination. It would provide for both permanent and rotating exhibit space and would promote engagement with local communities, schools, researchers, and visitors to the State by offering unfettered access to historical materials and multi-use public meeting spaces. This new facility would also provide secure and specialized storage space for some of RI's most treasured historic artifacts such as the Gaspee Commission from 1772.

In closing, I urge this Committee to support the General Obligation bond for the construction of a State Archives and History Center. This funding will allow the State to create a state-of-the-art facility which highlights Rhode Island's unique and seminal historical contributions and provides the opportunity for future generations of Rhode Islanders to explore and better understand these contributions.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Theresa Moore". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Theresa Moore
President, T-Time Productions
Professor, Providence College