



**AGC**  
THE CONSTRUCTION  
ASSOCIATION  
Rhode Island

February 27, 2024

The Honorable Marvin Abney, Chair  
House Finance Committee  
The State House  
Providence, RI 02903

*Subject: Support for \$60M bond for The Rhode Island State Archives and History Center*

Dear Chairman Abney and Members of the House Finance Committee:

On behalf of the member companies of The Rhode Island Chapter of Associated General Contractors (RIAGC), I write in support of Article 5, Question 2 which would authorize the state to issue \$60 million in bonds to support construction of the Rhode Island State Archives and History Center.

As you are aware, the state has numerous historical treasures that cannot be safely displayed and remain inaccessible to the public. It is long past due to provide a permanent home that will employ archival best practices to protect our state's history and artifacts for future generations. Additionally, the new center will provide opportunities for interactive learning and research among Rhode Island's students and citizens, as well as visitors to our state.

A well-secured, climate-controlled building that can accommodate the archives collection is a worthwhile investment that will advance Rhode Island's standing in our nation's history, putting us on a level playing field with other New England states that promote and utilize their archives to generate educational, cultural, and economic benefits. Indeed, this investment will have a positive economic impact before it is complete. AGC of America's economic impact model estimates that the total construction cost of \$101 million would generate approximately \$168 million total in-state spending at businesses over the course of the project. And it would support 540 construction, indirect, and induced jobs per year.

We commend the Governor for including this important project in the budget and we urge the Committee to support this initiative. Thank you in advance for your consideration of this important legislation.

Sincerely,

Kerrie Bennett  
Executive Director

RIAGC MEMBERS

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