

February 11, 2026

The Honorable Marvin Abney
Chair, House Committee on Finance
Rhode Island State House
82 Smith Street, Providence, RI 02903

RE: CCRI's GO Bond Request for the Workforce Innovation Center

The RI Hospitality Association is pleased to offer our full support for the Community College of Rhode Island's General Obligation bond request to construct the Workforce Innovation Center.

Our state continues to experience critical workforce shortages, particularly in the skilled trades, construction, and advanced manufacturing where retirements, changing technologies, and a shifting labor market have created an urgent need for new talent. A modern, coordinated, scalable training hub is essential to building the next generation of skilled workers who will support Rhode Island's infrastructure, manufacturing base, and growing industries.

The Workforce Innovation Center directly responds to that need. Designed in collaboration with employers and workforce partners, the Center will provide:

- Industry-standard training labs and simulation spaces
- Capacity to scale high-demand programs quickly in fields such as construction, maritime trades, advanced manufacturing, and IT
- Expanded apprenticeship and work-based learning opportunities
- Pathways that meet Rhode Islanders at every point in their career journey, from entry-level training to upskilling and reskilling

CCRI is the right institution to lead this effort. No other organization in Rhode Island has the statewide reach or the history of delivering job-ready graduates at the scale required to meet employer demand. Last year alone, the college awarded more workforce credentials than any other institution in the state, and it did so while maintaining unmatched affordability and access. The Workforce Innovation Center is a strategic, long-term investment in the economic vitality of Rhode Island and in the strength of our workforce pipeline.

We respectfully urge your support for CCRI's bond request and look forward to continued partnership in building a stronger, more resilient workforce for our state.

Sincerely,

Ryan Moot
Manager of Government Affairs
RI Hospitality Association