



February 26, 2026

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

Re: H. 7127 – Art. 6, Question 3: Economic Development Bond and Art. 3, Sec 8:
Rebuild Rhode Island Tax Credit AMENDED

Dear Chairman Abney and Members of the House Committee on Finance,

On behalf of The Rhode Island Manufacturers Association, I write in strong support of Governor McKee’s Economic Development Bond as proposed in Article 6 of H7127 and the allocation to the Rebuild Rhode Island tax credit fund as proposed in Article 1 of H7127.

Rhode Island manufacturing is rapidly transforming into one of the most strategically important advanced manufacturing and defense ecosystems in the United States. Across the Ocean State, recent industry developments demonstrate sustained and accelerating economic momentum driven by defense production, maritime innovation, and advanced technology manufacturing.

Rhode Island does not compete for advanced industry investment in isolation. Every major manufacturing expansion or relocation decision places our state in direct competition with neighboring and peer states that are aggressively preparing industrial sites, modernizing infrastructure, and deploying economic development tools designed to attract private investment. Companies often make location decisions on accelerated timelines. When Rhode Island lacks prepared sites or competitive development tools, opportunities do not pause — they move to neighboring states able to respond immediately.

States that invest proactively signal stability and partnership. States that cannot demonstrate readiness are often removed from consideration before negotiations even begin.

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This bond provides \$70 million for site development including infrastructure and utility installation, preparation, and project investments. It also provides \$45 million to support Rhode Island's growth industries: ocean, defense, life sciences, and more, with infrastructure, facilities, projects, and other investments. The tax credit cap increase would further stimulate real estate development supporting future manufacturing, industrial, and other commercial projects.

Manufacturing delivers an economic impact unmatched by any other sector while providing one of Rhode Island's strongest pathways to middle-class careers without the burden of student loan debt. Manufacturing carries one of the largest economic multiplier effects, our 60,000 jobs support an estimated **150,000–180,000 total jobs statewide** across supply chains, logistics, engineering, construction, energy providers, and local small businesses. Manufacturing wages circulate locally — strengthening municipal tax bases, sustaining Main Street economies, and reinforcing long-term middle-class stability in communities throughout Rhode Island.

For these reasons, the Rhode Island Manufacturers Association strongly supports H. 7127 – Art. 6, Question 3: Economic Development Bond and Art. 3, Sec 8: Rebuild Rhode Island Tax Credit, investments that reinforce Rhode Island's manufacturing competitiveness, and secure sustained economic growth for decades to come.

Thank you for your consideration and continued support of manufacturing in Rhode Island.

Sincerely,

Melissa Travis

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