

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

I am writing to urge you to maintain funding for Rhode Island's Innovative Matching Grants/Internship program in the FY27 Budget. In the current budget proposal, this program is being cut in order to fund the Innovation Initiatives program. Both programs are critical to driving high growth businesses, attracting federal and private investment and creating high paying jobs in the State.

This program was invaluable for RI companies looking to grow, research, and improve their businesses.

For these reasons, I urge you to keep \$1 million funds in the Innovative Matching Grants/Internship

Phil DiMuro

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