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PAOLINOPROPERTIES.COM

April 8, 2026

Honorable Marvin Abney, House Committee on Finance
State House, Room 306,
82 Smith Street,
Providence, RI 02903

To the Honorable Marvin Abney and Members of the House Finance Committee:

I write in strong opposition to House Bill 7467, which would redirect hotel tax revenue away from GoProvidence and into the Rhode Island Commerce Corporation.

As an owner and manager of hotels and restaurants in downtown Providence, I see every day how critical tourism, conventions, and major events are to the health of our local economy. The hotel tax is generated largely in Providence, and it should continue to be reinvested in the very area that produces it — our downtown and surrounding neighborhoods.

GoProvidence plays an essential role in attracting visitors, conventions, sporting events, and business travel to Providence and across Rhode Island. These efforts directly translate into occupied hotel rooms, increased restaurant activity, and a more vibrant and economically stable downtown. When events are in the city, the impact is immediate and visible — our businesses are busy, our streets are active, and jobs are supported.

Reducing or redirecting this funding would weaken the organization responsible for driving that activity and would have real consequences for the businesses, employees, and residents who depend on a strong and consistent flow of visitors. Maintaining investment in GoProvidence is not only important for Providence, but for the statewide economy that benefits from the visitors it brings.

For these reasons, I respectfully urge the Committee not to advance House Bill 7467.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Joe Paolino", written over the printed name "Joseph R. Paolino, JFV".

Joseph R. Paolino, JFV