



April 13, 2026

House Finance Committee
Rhode Island General Assembly
82 Smith Street
Providence, RI 02903

RE: Support of House Resolution H8316 (an appropriation \$150,000 to the Main Street Rhode Island Program)

Dear Chairman Abney and Members of the Rhode Island House Finance Committee:

As Community Engagement Manager at SWAP, Inc., I write in strong support of continued state funding for Main Street Rhode Island and **respectfully urge the House Finance Committee to approve the \$150,000 appropriation for Main Street Rhode Island in FY 2027.**

I am a participant in the 2026 RI Main Street Learning Cohort which is comprised of 11 teams from cities and towns across Rhode Island. We are all participating in the program because we want to use the Main Street model to catalyze economic growth in our communities.

The Main Street America model carries a documented average return on investment of 22 to 1. The state's \$150,000 does not simply support a program, it catalyzes private spending, business development, and property reinvestment that would not otherwise occur. As we near the end of Year 1, cohort communities are already moving from learning to action, developing real projects with genuine economic potential.

Approval of the \$150,000 appropriation enabled by H8316 is one of the most cost-effective economic development investments the state can make.

Thank you for your consideration. I invite you to contact me should you have any questions or wish to discuss this matter further.

Sincerely,

Lane Sparkman
Community Engagement Manager
SWAP, Inc.