

Chris O'Brien

From: Marianne Kelly <mkelly5915@ymail.com>
Sent: Monday, April 13, 2026 3:52 PM
To: House Finance Committee; Rep. Costantino, Gregory J.
Subject: SUPPORT for House Resolution No. 8316 ENTITLED, JOINT RESOLUTION MAKING AN APPROPRIATION OF \$150,000 TO THE MAIN STREET RHODE ISLAND PROGRAM

Categories: Red category

House Resolution No. 8316 ENTITLED, JOINT RESOLUTION MAKING AN APPROPRIATION OF \$150,000 TO THE MAIN STREET RHODE ISLAND PROGRAM {LC6064/1} (Authorizes the appropriation of the sum of one hundred fifty thousand dollars (\$150,000) to the Main Street Rhode Island Program.)

Dear Chairman Abney and members of the House Finance Committee,

I write to you today in strong support of House Resolution No. 8316, which authorizes the appropriation of \$150,000 to the Main Street Rhode Island Program, managed by Grow Smart Rhode Island.

Rhode Island's walkable, historic commercial districts are among the state's most underutilized economic assets. These Main Streets are not just centers of commerce—they are the heart of our communities, rich with character, history, and untapped potential for sustainable economic growth.

The Main Street Rhode Island network currently spans 28 of our 39 municipalities, bringing together local government leaders, neighborhood associations, community development organizations, and small business owners. This collaborative structure allows communities to share ideas, resources, and proven strategies—fostering innovation and revitalization that no single entity could achieve alone.

Importantly, the Main Street America model delivers results. With a documented average return on investment of 24 to 1, this program generates significant economic activity, strengthens local tax bases, and creates jobs—making it a smart and strategic investment for the state.

Healthy, vibrant Main Streets promote walkability and create livable, inclusive communities. They support small businesses, encourage local entrepreneurship, and provide accessible spaces where residents and visitors alike can gather, shop, and connect.

At a time when we are seeking meaningful ways to strengthen Rhode Island's economy while preserving its unique character, continued investment in Main Street Rhode Island is both fiscally responsible and forward-thinking.

I respectfully urge you to support House Resolution No. 8316 and continue funding this impactful program. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Marianne Kelly

Johnston, RI