



**DONALD R. GREBIEN
MAYOR**



April 13, 2026

The Honorable Marvin L. Abney
Chair, House Finance Committee
Rhode Island State House, Room 35
82 Smith Street
Providence, RI 02903

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

I write to express my strong support for the Joint Resolution making an appropriation of \$150,000 to fund the second year of the Main Street Rhode Island program in FY 2027 (H8316).

In its first year, Main Street Rhode Island has already demonstrated its value as a catalyst for local economic development and community revitalization. Pawtucket is proud to be among the participating communities, having joined a cohort alongside ten other cities and towns committed to strengthening their commercial districts through strategic investment and collaboration.

Main Street businesses are the backbone of our neighborhoods. They create jobs, provide essential goods and services, and contribute to the unique character that defines our communities. Investing in these small businesses is not only an economic imperative but also a commitment to enhancing the quality of life for residents, fostering walkable and vibrant districts, and building stronger, more connected communities.

The continuation of this program into its second year is critical. Sustained funding will allow existing cohorts, including Pawtucket's, to build upon the momentum established in year one while expanding opportunities to additional districts across the state. Through the proven Main Street America Four-Point Approach, focused on economic vitality, design, promotion, and organization, this initiative equips communities with the tools and technical assistance necessary to achieve long-term success.

Pawtucket has already begun to see the benefits of participation, as we work to support our local entrepreneurs, activate our commercial corridors, and create welcoming spaces for residents and visitors alike. Continued investment through this program will ensure that these efforts are not only maintained but meaningfully expanded.

I respectfully urge your support for this appropriation to ensure the continued success of Main Street Rhode Island. By investing in our Main Streets, we are investing in the economic resilience, cultural vibrancy, and overall well-being of our communities.

Thank you for your consideration and your ongoing commitment to Rhode Island's cities and towns.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "D. Grebjen". The signature is stylized with a large, looping initial "D" and a period at the end.

Donald R. Grebjen
Mayor, City of Pawtucket