

April 14, 2026

The Honorable Marvin L. Abney  
Chairman, House Finance Committee  
Rhode Island State House  
Providence, Rhode Island 02908

**RE: H-8316 – Joint Resolution Making an Appropriation to the Main Street Rhode Island Program**

Dear Chairman Abney:

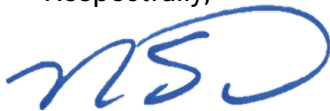
Rhode Island Energy appreciates the opportunity to express its support for H-8316, which would help continue and expand the “Main Street Rhode Island” program managed by Grow Smart RI.

Main Streets are gathering places that support small businesses and bring communities together. Statewide Main Street Coordinating programs provide the structure and framework necessary for local, often volunteer-led efforts to effectively grow, activate, beautify, and promote downtowns and neighborhood centers as vibrant, attractive destinations for visitors, residents, developers, and businesses.

The Main Street America model carries a documented average return on investment of 24 to 1, generating much needed state and municipal revenue. Intentional local efforts produced through participation in this program attract private spending, business reinvestment, and property development that would not otherwise occur. A well-resourced state coordinating program creates the conditions for that investment: trained local leadership, documented strategies, and a credible, connected network of communities ready to act. Every dollar of state funding directed toward this infrastructure is a multiplier for local economic activity. We respectfully urge your support for this important initiative.

Thank you for your consideration and continued leadership.

Respectfully,



Nicholas S. Ucci  
Director of Government Affairs

CC: The Honorable Members of the House Finance Committee  
The Honorable Arthur Handy, Rhode Island House of Representatives