



State of Rhode Island
Lieutenant Governor Sabina Matos

April 14, 2026

The Hon. Marvin Abney
Chair, House Finance Committee
82 Smith Street, Room 35
Providence, RI 02903

RE: Letter of Support for H8316: Joint Resolution Making An Appropriation Of \$150,000 To The Main Street Rhode Island Program

Dear Chair Abney:

I write to you in favor of H8316: Joint Resolution Making An Appropriation Of \$150,000 To The Main Street Rhode Island Program.

As the Chair of the Small Business Advocacy Council, I work with government agencies, nonprofits, small business owners, and their employees to ensure that every Main Street in our state is vibrant and accessible. Main Street RI has done amazing work during its 3-year pilot program, including holding monthly virtual roundtables, in-person networking events, learning cohorts, and even main street walk throughs, which our office has been privileged to participate in.

As we near the end of Year 1 of the three-year pilot established by the 2025 legislation, the state's early investment is beginning to compound. Communities participating in the inaugural "learning cohort" are moving from learning to action, developing projects with real economic potential through Main Street America's Four Point Approach. That technical assistance pipeline exists only because Rhode Island currently has an active state-level membership in Main Street America. Without continued funding, that partnership cannot be sustained, the momentum communities have built would stall, and the returns the state has already begun to seed would be left unrealized.

I respectfully urge the House Finance Committee to approve the \$150,000 appropriation for Main Street Rhode Island in FY 2027.

Sincerely,

Sabina Matos
Lieutenant Governor, State of Rhode Island
CC: Representative Arthur Handy