



April 28, 2026

Hon. Marvin Abney
Chair
House Committee on Finance
HouseFinance@rilegislature.gov

Re: Support for HB 8204; An act authorizing the City of Pawtucket to issue not to exceed \$22,500,00.00 city bonds to finance renovations and repairs to Samuel Slater Middle School.

Dear Chair Abney,

BuildRI is a domestic non-profit trade association comprised of four (4) contractor associations (the Labor Relations Division of the RI Chapter of the Associated General Contractors, the New England Mechanical Contractors' Ass'n, the RI Mason Contractors' Ass'n, and the RI and Southeast MA Chapter of the National Electrical Contractors' Ass'n), and sixteen (16) Local Trade Unions that make up the Rhode Island Building and Construction Trades Council representing an approximately 10,000 local tradesmen and women. On behalf of our organization, I write in SUPPORT of the above referred to legislation for the reasons that follow.

HB 8204, sponsored by Representative Messier, is necessary to continue Rhode Island's momentum with rebuilding our aging and crumbling school facility infrastructure. As Rhode Island looks to better our students' learning experience, it needs to start with how the classroom and the school facilities are constructed: cleanliness, good repair, and energy efficiency are not mere details. Efficient buildings are less expensive to run and maintain, and nationally recognized studies constantly provide evidence that better conditions of school facilities lead to better student attendance, test scores, and the even overall health of the student. When our students know we value education, they do, too. Replacing our outdated facilities will also create hundreds of jobs that provide good union wages, with healthcare and retirement benefits.

Ultimately, this legislation is needed to continue Pawtucket's strategic plan of rebuilding their school facilities in order to achieve the quality education standards and positive economic impact to Pawtucket. Thank you for your attention to this correspondence. Please contact the undersigned if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Anthony J. Cherry". The signature is stylized and cursive.

Anthony J. Cherry
Assistant Executive Director
Build Rhode Island