



CITY OF CENTRAL FALLS  
MAYOR MARIA RIVERA

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April 28, 2026

The Honorable Marvin L. Abney  
Chair, House Committee on Finance  
Rhode Island House of Representatives  
82 Smith Street  
Providence, Rhode Island 02903

***Re: Support for H8300 - Central Falls School Facilities Bond Authorization***

Dear Chair Abney and Honorable Members of the House Committee on Finance,

On behalf of the City of Central Falls, I respectfully submit this letter in strong support of H8300, which authorizes the City to finance the construction, renovation, improvement, alteration, repair, furnishing, and equipping of schools and school facilities by the issuance of not more than \$25,000,000 in bonds, notes, and/or other evidences of indebtedness.

This legislation is necessary to keep the new Central Falls High School track and field project moving forward. The City previously received enabling legislation last year for \$15 million in financing authority. Since that time, however, the project has encountered significant and unavoidable cost overruns caused by environmental conditions and stormwater management requirements. H8300 updates that prior authorization by increasing the not-to-exceed amount to \$25 million and superseding Public Act 019 (H6077-2025) and Public Act 020 (S0674-2025) as applied to Central Falls. Please note that the voters of Central Falls previously voted on November 5, 2024 to authorize local school construction bonds not to exceed \$26M, so this legislation still falls under that cap.

The additional financing authority is driven by real construction and regulatory issues, not by a change in the City's commitment to fiscal discipline. Environmental remediation, stormwater controls, and related site work must be addressed responsibly. These costs are necessary to protect public health, comply with applicable requirements, manage runoff, and ensure that the finished facility is safe, durable, and appropriate for long-term school and community use.

For these reasons, I respectfully urge the House Finance Committee to support H8300 and to advance this legislation so that Central Falls can complete this important school facilities project in a safe, responsible, and fiscally transparent manner.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'MR', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Maria Rivera  
*Mayor*

Cc: Honorable Members of the House Finance Committee

Enclosure