



May 21, 2026

The Honorable Marvin L. Abney
Chairman, House Finance Committee
Rhode Island State House
82 Smith Street
Providence, RI 02903
HouseFinance@rilegislature.gov

Support for H. 8528 – 2026 Capital Development Program Bond Referenda

Dear Chairman Abney and Members of the Committee:

On behalf of the 195 District, I write in support of H. 8528 and the proposed bond referenda supporting economic development, housing infrastructure, land acquisition and site readiness.

Over the past decade, the 195 District has transformed former highway land into one of Rhode Island's most dynamic engines of growth, catalyzing over \$830M in private investment and creating a thriving mixed-use neighborhood with over 1,100 units completed or planned. The District has delivered nationally recognized assets like 195 District Park, advanced a growing life sciences cluster, and added public amenities. Importantly, it has built momentum — attracting employers, residents, and visitors while reinforcing its reputation as a growing Innovation District.

The bond proposal recognizes the success of the 195 District and dedicates resources toward expanding the model. These investments will help acquire additional parcels and prepare them for future residential, commercial, research, and innovation-focused projects while supporting Rhode Island's broader economic and housing goals.

The District continues to attract interest from developers, employers, research institutions, and emerging companies seeking locations that support innovation. Strategic public infrastructure investments are essential to maintaining this momentum and ensuring Rhode Island remains competitive with other states making similar investments in innovation districts and economic development corridors.

Importantly, these funds are not just supporting individual projects. They are helping to create the conditions necessary for additional private investment, job creation, expanded housing opportunities, and long-term tax base growth for the state and city alike.

For these reasons, the 195 District respectfully urges favorable consideration of H. 8528.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Caroline Skuncik".

Caroline Skuncik
Executive Director
195 District