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February 8, 2022

Hon. Marvin L. Abney
c/o HouseFinance@rilegislature.gov
Chairman
House Committee on Finance, Room 35
State House
Providence, RI 02903

Re: Support for Article 5, Capital Dev. Program Question 1

Dear Chairman 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 eighteen (18) Local Trade Unions. On behalf of our organization, I am writing to offer our unqualified support for this Bill, for the reasons that follow.

This proposed bond question will ask the voters of our state to approve \$62,000,000 for higher education facilities. \$50,000,000 to construct new facilities at the University of Rhode Island's Narragansett Bay campus for the school's marine disciplines, and \$12,000,000 to restore and enhance the facilities at the Community College of Rhode Island.

Rhode Islanders have long realized the benefits of investing in higher education by regularly approving a number of recent higher ed bond questions. These bonds are not only good for higher ed they are also good for stimulating the construction sector of our economy by providing hundreds of well paying middle class jobs for local skilled craftsmen and women. Accordingly, for the foregoing reasons we urge you to SUPPORT passage of this budget Article.

Thank you for your time and attention to this matter. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact the undersigned.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads 'Gregory A. Mancini'.

Gregory A. Mancini
Executive Director/General Counsel

cc: Committee members

February 8, 2022

Dear Chairman Abney and members of the House Finance Committee,

On behalf of The Rhode Island Foundation, I am writing to express our full support for the Governor's APRA Capital Fund project proposal for a Student Services Center on the Campus of Rhode Island College (RIC), which is being heard in your committee Tuesday February 8, 2022 at the rise of the House.

This project would centralize critical services for RIC students, which are currently scattered around the campus, into a modern "One-Stop" center. Over the last several decades, higher education institutions across the country have effectively incorporated such student service centers to support students, their success and degree completion.

The proposed Student Services Center at RIC will include:

- Records
- Financial Aid
- Bursar
- Counseling Center
- Health Services
- Military Resource Center

The centrally located building will be accessible online, at night and on weekends to accommodate our growing percentage of adults and working students. It will also improve RIC employees' work environments and provide them with all the tools and technology they deserve and need in their service to students.

This is a tremendous opportunity for Rhode Island College to remove barriers and make sure students absolutely have access to services vital to their college success. Students of all backgrounds face difficulties navigating the college, and when that involves financial aid, health services or counseling, the results can truly harm a student's academic progression.

We thank you for your continued support of Rhode Island College and ask that you support this important investment for our students.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,



Alan Chille
President
RIC Foundation