

Michael F. Sabitoni
President

RHODE ISLAND

Scott Duhamel
Secretary/Treasurer



BUILDING TRADES

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:

The Rhode Island Building and Construction Trades Council is comprised of seventeen (17) Local Trade Unions and approximately 9,500 members. On behalf of the officers and members, I am writing in **SUPPORT** of the above referred to budget Article 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,

Michael F. Sabitoni
President

cc: RI Building and Construction Trades Council

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