



February 14, 2022

The Honorable Marvin L. Abney  
Chair, House Finance Committee  
Room 35, Rhode Island State House  
Providence, RI 02903

**RE: 2022 – H 7123 – ARPA Proposals from Article 1 – Section 16**

Dear Chairman Abney,

I am writing to voice my strong support for the provisions of Article 1 – Section 16 of H 7123, An Act Making Appropriations for the Support of the State for the Fiscal Year Ending June 30, 2023. Specifically, I am writing to voice my support for the use of funding from the American Rescue Plan Act to support the Main Street Revitalization Program, the Small Business and Technical Assistance Program, the Assistance to Impacted Industries program, the Minority Business Accelerator, and the Small Business Access to Capital Program.

Now more than ever, Rhode Island small business owners need our support in order to recover from the economic impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic. Through the programs proposed in H 7123, small businesses and industries disproportionately impacted by COVID-19, including the hospitality and tourism industries, would be provided with direct payments to be used for outdoor and public space capital improvements, event programming, technical assistance for long-term business capacity building, capital improvements for public health upgrades, purchasing furniture, fixtures, and supplies, and more. In addition, funding will be used to invest in main street improvements such as signage and lighting in municipal commercial districts.

H 7123 also supports the Minority Business Accelerator, investing additional resources to enhance the growth of minority owned businesses through a variety of methods. Minority communities in Rhode Island and across the U.S. have disproportionately experienced negative impacts from the COVID-19 pandemic, and it is important that we support these communities specifically as we strive to support financial success for all Rhode Islanders.

These programs will ensure that funding from the American Rescue Plan will have maximum impact for small business owners in our state. Small businesses are the backbone of our economy, and it is important to support them in economic recovery efforts from the COVID-19 pandemic.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Sabina Matos". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Sabina Matos  
Lieutenant Governor



State of Rhode Island

CC: The Honorable Members of the House Finance Committee  
The Honorable Marvin L. Abney  
Danica A. Iacoi, Esq.