



David Dadekian
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Testimony in support of the Supplemental Appropriations Request

October 19, 2021

Honorable Chairperson Abney and members of the House Finance Committee:

I am the founder and president of Eat Drink RI, one of the top media, marketing and event production companies in the region for all things culinary. As a small business owner who works with dozens of other small business owners, and as a board member of the RI Small Business Coalition, I support the Supplemental Request to Amend FY 2022, specifically the \$32,000,000 requested for Impacted Small Business and Industry and the \$13,000,000 requested for Tourism, Hospitality, and Events Industry Support.

During the past eighteen months the vast majority of small businesses have struggled to survive. Even after taking advantage of every federal, state and local program available, many small businesses in RI are in debt or barely able to make a profit. Having worked with Coalition members and government agencies on some of these aid programs I saw first-hand how necessary they were to the small businesses in our state.

The \$32 million requested by the Governor to provide direct financial assistance to these businesses would be a vital lifeline to keep many of these small businesses going. In addition, tourism, hospitality and events—three industries my own business is deeply involved in—were some of the hardest hit sectors not only here, but around the country and the world. These industries are badly in need of additional support and the \$13 million requested would be a step in the right direction.

Respectfully, I urge the Committee to vote this Supplemental Appropriations Request forward to the full House. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "David S. Dadekian". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

David Dadekian