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April 7, 2026

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The Honorable Evan P. Shanley, Chairman
House Committee on State Government and Elections
Rhode Island State House
82 Smith Street
Providence, RI 02903

Re: HB 7674-State Purchases

Dear Chairman Shanley,

I write to express my support for H7674, which will create a framework for the state to enter into public-private partnership agreements.

Public-private partnerships are utilized throughout the country for projects ranging from transportation to social infrastructure (e.g. libraries, health services). These agreements provide states with the ability to deliver complex infrastructure projects in a timely manner by offsetting capital expenses and project constraints. Partnerships with private entities experienced in design-build-finance-operate-maintain spectrum lead to stronger project outcomes by aligning development, construction, and maintenance.

Rhode Island is starting to see the benefits of public-private partnerships. For example, the University of Rhode Island, in partnership with Gilbane, recently broke ground on three new residence halls that will provide more than 1,100 beds—a monumental project delivering modern, on-campus accommodations and address a critical need for student housing. This represents just a fraction of the potential development opportunities, as much of our state facility inventory is aging and requires significant investments to renovate or replace. By leveraging public-private partnerships, the state can modernize their facilities and deliver high-quality projects more efficiently and cost-effectively.

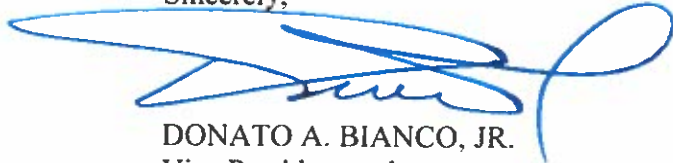
Establishing a strong and effective framework for public-private partnerships will enable the state to advance infrastructure projects while upholding key labor standards. It ensures that private partners acknowledge project labor agreements for all associated construction work over \$25,000,000 and remain fully compliant with the Privatization of State Services Act, striking a balance between innovation, efficiency, accountability, and worker protections.

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This legislation will empower the state to deliver infrastructure projects more efficiently, create high-quality jobs, uphold strong worker protections, and drive sustained economic growth. I respectfully urge your support for this legislation.

With kind regards, I remain

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Donato A. Bianco, Jr.", with a large, stylized flourish extending to the right.

DONATO A. BIANCO, JR.
Vice President and
New England Regional Manager

DAB/jm

cc: Members of the House Committee on State Government and Elections
The Honorable K. Joseph Shekarchi, Speaker of the House
The Honorable John G. Edwards