



Joseph L. Walsh, Jr.
Business Manager

Wayne A. Tait
President

22 Amflex Drive
Cranston, RI 02921
P: (401) 946-9900
F: (401) 946-9907
www.IBEW99.org

To: Senate Finance Committee
From: Alvin Reyes
Date: 2/26/2026
RE: RI State History Center FY 2027 Budget,
Article 6 Question 6

Dear Chairman DiPalma and members of the Senate Finance Committee,

My name is Alvin Reyes and I am the *Membership Development Coordinator, Executive Board member of The International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers LU 99 and Executive Board Member of RI Labor History Society. Organizations for which in this letter I have included the **SUPPORT OF THE PROPOSAL INCLUDED IN THE GOVERNOR'S BUDGET FOR THE RHODE ISLAND STATE HISTORY CENTER, funded by \$45 million of the General obligation bond in question 6.*** I am also honored to have been a member of the *State's Archives /History Center's Working group* back a few years ago with a diverse group of individuals that represent various professions, industries, communities, philanthropic organizations, historians and historical preservationists.

The Archives Working Group has held openly public meetings all over the State and listened to many citizens and professional opinions regarding the proposed State Archive/ History Center facility. We discussed the many possible scenarios and evaluated the facts concerning building / purchasing a new facility. I believe, from the information provided to me that having a permanent space for a State Archives and History Center makes a financial, realistic approach to accommodate the needs of this State's rich history. I was amazed to learn that RI is the *only* State in the country with our Archives in a commercially leased building which is not equipped to store some of RI's most precious documents and assets. I was raised in RI and have been always proud that we being the smallest State in the country have the most abundant history dating back even to the American Revolution.

A State Archives / History Center would immensely serve our educators, students, tourism industry, but most importantly residents of one the original 13 colonies. This year our nation celebrates the semiquincentennial anniversary and just right around the corner year 2036 will mark 400 years since the date of the original settling of RI. Let's embark in such a proud moment for our State to finally have a facility that can commemorate, and preserve our history. Thank-you for your time!

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Alvin Reyes".

Alvin Reyes
Membership Development Coordinator IBEW LU 99
(401) 262-1933
areyes@ibew99.org