



March 10, 2026

Hon. Lou DiPalma  
Chair  
Senate Committee on Finance  
State House  
Providence, RI 02903  
[SenateFinance@rilegislature.gov](mailto:SenateFinance@rilegislature.gov)

**Re: Department of Labor and Training FY 26 Supplemental and FY 27 Budget**

Dear Chair DiPalma:

BuildRI is a domestic non-profit trade association comprised of four (4) contractor associations (the Labor Relations Division of the RI Chapter of the Associated General Contractors, the New England Mechanical Contractors' Ass'n, the RI Mason Contractors' Ass'n, and the RI and Southeast MA Chapter of the National Electrical Contractors' Ass'n), and sixteen (16) Local Trade Unions that make up the Rhode Island Building and Construction Trades Council representing an approximately 10,000 local tradesmen and women. On behalf of our organization, I write in SUPPORT of the above referred to Budget requests from this important state agency for the reasons that follow.

The DLT has been a vital partner in our (RI Building and Construction Trades Council and BuildRI) efforts to protect RI workers and their earnings as well as in developing programs that prepare our state workers for future employment opportunities. Whether enhancing prevailing wage enforcement or working collaboratively to root out employee misclassification and the underground economy, DLT has been critical in ensuring that all workers are paid the wages they are legally owed. In addition, through the Real Jobs RI and Real Skills for Youth initiatives, DLT has invested in programs sponsored by building trades members that prepare our workforce for middle class careers in the trades. This is exemplified by its support for Registered Apprenticeship programs such as that of Building Futures, which it has supported year-after-year. Their work is critical to ensuring that the workforce of today is paid all wages owed as well as training the workforce of tomorrow. Accordingly, we strongly support their proposed supplemental budget for FY26 and their proposed budget for FY27.

Thank you for your time and attention to this matter. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact the undersigned.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Gregory A. Mancini".

**Gregory A. Mancini**  
Executive Director/General Counsel