



March 12, 2026

The Honorable Louis P. DiPalma
Chair, Senate Committee on Finance
Rhode Island State House
82 Smith Street, Providence, RI 02903

RE: Article 6, Question 1 (CCRI's GO Bond Request for the Workforce Innovation Center)

Dear Chairman DiPalma and members of the Committee:

Building Futures is pleased to offer our support for the Community College of Rhode Island's General Obligation bond request to construct the Workforce Innovation Center.

As Rhode Island's workforce intermediary for the union building and construction trades and the state's registered apprenticeship intermediary, Building Futures works in close partnership with employers, industry associations, institutes of higher education, and the Department of Labor and Training to expand the use of registered apprenticeship to new industries, occupations, and employers. CCRI is an invaluable and substantive partner in this work, and we are excited by the opportunities for Rhode Islanders that will be made possible through the proposed Workforce Innovation Center.

As we work together to expand registered apprenticeship into industries facing critical workforce shortages, CCRI's proposal before you today would connect critical workforce system components by way of a modern, coordinated, scalable training hub – an essential investment in the next generation of skilled workers. In particular, CCRI's central role as a workforce engine for our state includes the provision of high-quality, accessible, and affordable instruction to apprentices and linking that instruction to credit-bearing coursework, thereby creating opportunity for Rhode Island workers to increase their earning power through the proven, high-return, learn-while-you-earn model of registered apprenticeship.

We respectfully urge your support for CCRI's bond request and look forward to continued partnership in building a stronger, more resilient workforce for our State.

Sincerely,

Andrew Cortés
President & CEO
Building Futures