

Brent Runyon
9 Hollywood Rd
Providence
brentrunyon@gmail.com

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The Honorable Louis DiPalma, Chairman
Senate Finance Committee
Rhode Island Senate
82 Smith Street
Providence, RI 02903

Dear Chairman DiPalma,

I am writing as a Rhode Island resident and professional engaged in historic preservation, community development, and real estate to express my strong support for Senate Bill S2676, scheduled for hearing before the Senate Finance Committee on April 30. This joint resolution would appropriate \$150,000 to the Main Street Rhode Island program, continuing and strengthening an initiative that has already demonstrated meaningful benefits in communities across the state.

Rhode Island's historic main streets and traditional commercial corridors are critical to local economic development, small business vitality, housing stability, and tourism. Strategic investment in the Main Street Rhode Island program leverages relatively modest state funds to catalyze private investment, support adaptive reuse of historic structures, and enhance the character and walkability of our village and downtown centers. These are precisely the kinds of targeted, place-based investments that generate long-term returns for municipalities and the state as a whole.

By approving the appropriation in S2676, the Committee would help sustain and expand a program that aligns with Rhode Island's goals for economic growth, smart land use, and preservation of our distinctive built environment. As someone who works directly with historic properties and community revitalization efforts, I see firsthand how small grants and technical support can make the difference between disinvestment and successful rehabilitation.

I respectfully urge you and the members of the Senate Finance Committee to recommend passage of S2676. Thank you for your consideration and for your leadership on issues that shape the fiscal and economic future of our state. I would be glad to provide additional information or examples from specific communities if that would be helpful.

Sincerely,
Brent Runyon