



**City of East Providence**  
**Office of the Mayor**  
**Roberto L. DaSilva**  
**Mayor**

May 11, 2026

The Honorable Marvin L. Abney  
Chair, House Committee on Finance Rhode Island State House, Room 306  
82 Smith Street  
Providence, RI 02903

Dear Chairman Abney and Members of the House Finance Committee,

I write to express my strong support for H7467, legislation that would create a dedicated fund for public art and reallocate a portion of the state's hotel tax to better serve tourism development efforts across Rhode Island.

As Mayor of East Providence, I have seen how investments in tourism, arts, and culture can transform communities, strengthen local economies, and create lasting opportunities for residents and businesses alike. Tourism is one of Rhode Island's fastest-growing economic sectors, supporting tens of thousands of jobs and generating critical revenue in every region of our state.

This legislation represents an important step forward in ensuring that those benefits are distributed more equitably by removing the requirement that 5% of the hotel tax generated from regional tourism districts be paid to the Greater Providence-Warwick Convention and Visitors Bureau, and adding that 5% of the hotel tax to the existing tax paid to the RI Commerce Corporation. This will ensure we better align resources with statewide priorities, supporting tourism development, expanding public art initiatives, and investing in events that draw visitors to all corners of Rhode Island.

In East Providence, we are witnessing a powerful resurgence driven by collaboration, creativity, and strategic partnerships. From cultural programming and public art such as Mrs. Skipper, one of the few Dambo Trolls in Rhode Island. We are working to create an experience that will attract visitors, support local businesses, and maintain the pride residents have in our communities.

Public art not only beautifies our cities and towns, but also tells our stories, celebrates our diverse cultures, and creates vibrant spaces that draw residents and visitors alike. Coupled

with targeted investments in tourism development and regional events, this legislation will help unlock the full potential of Rhode Island's tourism economy.

I urge you to support H7467 and help ensure that tourism dollars are working for the entire state, fueling economic growth, supporting local communities, and strengthening Rhode Island's identity as a premier destination.

Thank you for your consideration and for your continued commitment to the people of Rhode Island.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Roberto L. DaSilva', written in a cursive style.

Roberto L. DaSilva  
Mayor