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April 9, 2024

Hon. Marvin Abney
Chair
House Committee on Finance
State House
Providence, RI 02903
HouseFinance@rilegislature.gov

Re: H 7482 -- Joint Resolution Making an Appropriation of \$500,000 to the Rhode Island Black Business Association

Dear Chair Abney,

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 seventeen (17) Local Trade Unions comprised of approximately 10,000 local tradesmen and women. On behalf of our organization, I write in **SUPPORT** to the above referred to legislation for the reasons that follow.

BuildRI, and our labor partners, support the efforts of the Rhode Island Black Business Association in prompting and growing minority owned businesses in Rhode Island. This body has set benchmarks for public sector projects to utilize a minimum percentage of minority owned business enterprises (MBE) in the construction of these public sector projects. RIBBA has worked with our Building Trades unions and construction management companies to help connect potential qualified and certified MBE subcontractors, as well as identify potential barriers of entry for these MBEs in to the construction industry. This appropriation of funds will surely help in RIBBA's efforts in growing the MBE businesses in the unionized construction industry.

Thank you for your attention to this correspondence. Please contact the undersigned if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

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

Gregory A. Mancini
Executive Director/General Counsel