



State of Rhode Island

Department of State | Office of the Secretary of State

Gregg M. Amore, *Secretary of State*

May 9, 2024

The Honorable Marvin L. Abney, Chair
House Committee on Finance

RE: In support of HJR8196 – A Joint Resolution Making an Appropriation of \$2,000,000 to the ELISHA Project

Dear Chair Abney,

I write this letter in support of House Resolution 8196, legislation that would authorize the appropriation of \$2,000,000 to the ELISHA Project. The ELISHA Project is a non-profit organization dedicated to combating food insecurity and is focused on bringing diverse communities together through service, sharing, teaching, and learning in order to make a positive impact in all communities across Rhode Island.

The ELISHA Project has a positive impact on communities most in need in Rhode Island. It addresses food insecurity by distributing fresh, healthy, and culturally sensitive food to those most in need across Rhode Island. In 2023, this equaled 6.5 million pounds of food.

By engaging hundreds of young people to volunteer in its programs, the ELISHA Project is changing the narrative on community service – and encouraging lifelong civic engagement.

I urge the Committee's support and thank you for your consideration. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact Michelle Arias, Director of Intergovernmental Affairs, at marias@sos.ri.gov.

Sincerely,

Gregg M. Amore
Secretary of State

cc: The Honorable Members of the House Committee on Finance
The Honorable Mary D. Messier