



Dear Rhode Island Housing,

March 5, 2023

This communication comes to express my very strong support and collaboration with the 25 Bough Development to bring a STEM and Engineering focus to an underserved youth and communities. I have been with the University of Rhode Island College of Engineering and Senior lead of our Northeast Louis Stokes Alliance for Minority Participation (URI-LSAMP) program for over 20 years. This initiative supports students from under-represented populations in the fields of science, technology, engineering, and mathematics. This regional alliance is comprised of University of Massachusetts Amherst, Northeastern University, University of Connecticut, **University of Rhode Island**, Tufts University and Worcester Polytechnic Institute.

25 Bough Street is ideally situated to make an impact in a way that I believe will be transformative to the area and the State of Rhode Island. Anyone who has toured 25 Bough or driven by knows it can and will be a lynchpin and catalyst to the area's resurgence due to its current blight. I am excited to use the breadth of our resources and networks both locally and nationally to bring a heightened focus on this critical development which can advance economic, workforce readiness as well as residency. The University of Rhode Island College of Engineering and Office of Diversity Equity and Inclusion are happy to have a hand in positively shaping the lives of youth and adults who may not otherwise know about future pathways and careers.

25 Bough Street Development and other partners in the space, is a vision of the future to increase equitable opportunities. This I believe will allow us to maximize existing resources and goals to respond to the needs of our communities and their residents. As mentioned, we are excited to be in and collaborate with the 25 Bough Street Development and other partners in the space. In summary, this is a highly positive outlook that portends its success the University and the State Rhode Island is looking for and beyond.

Considering the above facts, I very strongly recommend and support. I do so without reservations, with the conviction that this will be an excellent partnership.

Sincerely



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