



March 3, 2021

VIA EMAIL ONLY

Hon. David Bennett
Chair
House Environment and Natural Resources Committee
State House
Providence, RI 02903

Re: Opposition to H-5278

Dear Chairman Bennett:

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 am write to **OPPOSE** of the above referred to legislation for the reasons that follow.

We can all but guarantee you that virtually every potential host community's zoning, planning, and building departments will conclude that any proposed energy facility will not be consistent with the municipality's comprehensive plan. We make this conclusion based on 2 factors: 1) the political NIMBY factor, and 2) comprehensive plans are not drafted with the idea that an energy generating facility could be built, and that is because they are so rarely built. We also believe giving the host community even more enhanced legal authority generally will further guarantee the outcome that no energy generating facilities will be built in our state.

Consequently, just as what happened after the proposed power plant in Burrillville was not approved, another developer will go just across the line in neighboring state and get their project permitted there. So, Rhode Island will once again be stuck with all of the environmental drawbacks of an energy generating facility without any of the economic benefits. Accordingly, for the foregoing reasons we oppose this bill. Thank you for your attention to this matter. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact the undersigned.

Sincerely,

Gregory A. Mancini

cc: Committee Members
Rhode Island Building and Construction Trades Council