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February 24, 2021

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## EMAIL ONLY

Hon. Anastasia Williams  
Chairperson, House Committee on Labor  
Email: rep-williams@rilegislature.gov

**RE: OPPOSITION TO H 5476 RELATING TO LABOR AND LABOR RELATIONS—MECHANICAL TRADES**

Dear Chairperson Williams,

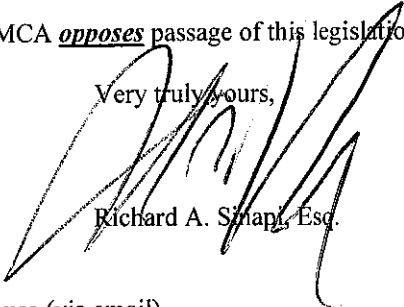
This letter is sent by the undersigned in my capacity as Governmental Affairs Counsel for the New England Mechanical Contractors Association ("New England MCA").<sup>1</sup>

New England MCA **opposes** this bill, *which would authorize the* issuance of limited HVAC service person's license upon examination for work on or repair of electric wiring/equipment located on heating/AC systems. New England MCA represents the major commercial and industrial heating, ventilation, air conditioning, and process piping contractors in Massachusetts, Maine, and Rhode Island. It has over 80 contractor members throughout New England. Every New England MCA member is signatory to one or more collective bargaining agreements with the local construction industry trades. Our members perform work as both contractors and subcontractors, depending on the size and nature of the project. In either case, installation or repair of electric wiring/equipment located on heating/AC systems is typically performed by licensed subcontractors engaged by one of our members.

Licensing of a trade is typically imposed because of the potential danger to public health and/or safety if the work is not performed properly. The installation or repair of electric wiring/equipment located on heating/AC systems raises material public health and/or safety concerns. That is why a license is already needed to perform such work, which is currently performed by electricians duly licensed under the laws of this state. The training received by those currently licensed to perform this work includes many of hours of both classroom and on the job apprenticeship work, as well as the passing of a rigorous licensing exam. *Allowing individuals to perform this work merely because they passed a single test does not provide any assurance that the individual has the minimum amount of knowledge or experience to perform this public safety sensitive work.*

For all the foregoing reasons, New England MCA **opposes** passage of this legislation.

Very truly yours,

  
Richard A. Sinapi, Esq.

RAS/ras

cc: Client (email only)  
Hon. K. Joseph Shekarchi, Speaker of the House (via email)  
Members of House Committee on Labor (via email)

<sup>1</sup> New England MCA represents the major commercial and industrial heating, ventilation, air conditioning, and process piping contractors in Massachusetts, Maine, and Rhode Island. It has over 80 contractor members throughout New England. New England MCA's Rhode Island members include Aero Mechanical, Inc., Arden Engineering Constructors, LLC, Delta Mechanical, Hart Engineering Corporation, Merit Service, LLC, Nexgen Mechanical, and Process Engineers & Constructors, Inc. Every New England MCA member is signatory to one or more collective bargaining agreements with the local construction industry trades. Our members have worked as contractors and subcontractors on numerous public and private works projects in Rhode Island, including major construction at URI, Rhode Island Resource Recovery, Providence College, and Amgen. During periods of major commercial construction, New England MCA member contractors may employ as many as 700 Local 51 plumbers and pipefitters in Rhode Island. *The views expressed in this letter do not necessarily represent the position of each individual member.*