



2021 – H 5404 OPPOSE

The National Utility Contractors Association of Rhode Island (NUCARI) is an association of utility construction and excavation professionals working throughout Rhode Island and southern New England. Our works include water, sewer, roads, bridges, commercial and residential projects. The work that our member companies do provides critical services to every one of our fellow Rhode Islanders, infuses millions of dollars into the Rhode Island economy, and creates quality, lasting, good-paying jobs. Our member companies represent a multitude of Rhode Island small businesses and employ construction workers, laborers, utility contractors, operating engineers, service providers, professionals and suppliers.

The mission of NUCARI is to provide professional development, promote safety awareness, and advocate for initiatives that keep our crews working to improve Rhode Island's aging underground infrastructure.

It is incumbent upon NUCARI to provide testimony upon legislation currently before this committee, specifically H-5404.

NUCARI opposes 2021 – H-5404 in its present form. NUCARI finds the proposed increase in award minimum to Minority Business Enterprises from ten percent (10%) to twenty-five percent (25%) of the dollar value of the entire procurement or project in all construction projects to be concerning. While NUCARI supports MBE contract compliance, the proposed increase will create an excess burden on construction companies that will cause construction delays and increased costs of projects. Additionally, as small business owners and employers in the state, NUCARI supports a competitive bid environment that prioritizes Rhode Island companies.

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