



March 19, 2026

Hon. Joseph Solomon
Chairperson
House Committee on Corporations
HouseCorporations@rilegislature.gov
State House
Providence, RI 02903

Re: **Advocating for the “All-of-the-Above” Approach of our energy infrastructure needs - House Bills 7174, 7175, 7177, and 7182**

Dear Chair Solomon,

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 BuildRI, and our partners, we are in support of HB 7879.

Rhode Island has the fourth-highest energy costs in the nation; a challenge that has persisted for decades and continues to place a burden on residents and businesses alike.

To address this issue, Rhode Island should embrace an “all-of-the-above” approach to meeting our energy needs. As Michael Sabitoni, General Secretary-Treasurer of the Laborers' International Union of North America and President of the Rhode Island Building & Construction Trades Council, stated in an October 2025 Boston Globe article entitled Build it all: Rhode Island unions champion ‘all-of-the-above energy approach:

“When you get right down to it, energy isn't partisan. It isn't about choosing between wind or gas or nuclear. It's about recognizing that our power needs are growing fast, and we need every tool in the toolbox to meet those needs. Especially here in the Northeast, where grid reliability and affordability are constant concerns, we need to build more of everything.”

The General Assembly should continue to support and build upon the critical investments Rhode Island has already made in renewable energy, including solar and wind. At the same time, we must not limit our options. Ensuring a reliable, affordable, and resilient energy system requires a diversified portfolio that includes solar, wind, geothermal, nuclear, and natural gas.


For these reasons BuildRI is respectfully asking for the Rhode Island General Assembly to pass House Bill 7175, and reject House Bills 7174, 7177, and 7182.

By pursuing a comprehensive and balanced energy strategy, Rhode Island can reduce costs, strengthen grid reliability, and promote long-term energy independence. Just as importantly, expanding energy infrastructure will create meaningful opportunities for the skilled men and women of the Building Trades, who are ready and capable of delivering the projects our state needs to support homes, businesses, and economic growth.

Adopting an “all-of-the-above” energy approach is not only practical, it is essential. It will position Rhode Island for a more competitive economy, a more affordable cost of living, and a stronger future for all residents.

Thank you for your attention to this correspondence. Please contact the undersigned if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Anthony J. Cherry". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial "A" and "C".

Anthony Cherry
Assistant Executive Director