

April 2, 2026

The Honorable Joseph J. Solomon, Jr.
Chairperson, House Committee on Corporations
State House
Providence, Rhode Island 02903

RE: H7835 – *An Act Relating to Businesses and Professions – Architects*

Dear Chairperson Solomon:

I respectfully submit this testimony in support of H7835 as chair of the Rhode Island Board Examination and Registration of Architects (Board). The Board worked with the Department to propose this legislation to update and simplify the Certificate of Authorization (COA) requirements for architectural firms in Rhode Island.

Architectural firms must operate under licensed professionals and obtain a COA, a firm registration, to provide architectural services. These requirements are important safeguards that protect the public by ensuring professional accountability in the design of buildings and infrastructure. This bill would require that each architectural firm designate at least one RI registered architect who is in the corporate leadership and is in direct control of the firm's architectural work in this state.

The proposed revisions simplify the statutory criteria governing COAs, making compliance more straightforward for firms while preserving the oversight necessary to protect public health, safety, and welfare. Clearer regulatory standards benefit both the profession and the state by reducing administrative confusion and supporting effective enforcement.

This legislation represents a practical modernization of Rhode Island's architectural practice framework while maintaining the core principle that architectural services remain under the responsible control of licensed professionals.

For these reasons, I respectfully urge the committee to support H7835. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

THOMAS LONARDO & ASSOCIATES Inc.



Thomas D. Lonardo
Architect



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