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Rhode Island Works Best When We Say **UNION YES.**

April 7, 2026

Chairman Joseph J. Solomon, Jr.  
House Corporations Committee  
Rhode Island State House  
Providence, RI 02903

RE: Testimony in Support of HB7331

Dear Chairman Solomon and Members of the House Corporations Committee,

On behalf of the Rhode Island AFL-CIO, representing more than 80,000 union members and their families across Rhode Island, we write in support of House Bill 7331. This legislation ensures that the costs and infrastructure needs associated with the development of data centers be responsibly managed and financed by the developer.

Data centers are an increasingly important part of the digital economy, supporting industries such as healthcare, finance, education, and emergency services. As the state begins to consider its investment in this burgeoning industry, House Bill 7331 provides important safeguards to ensure that the growth of this industry does not shift infrastructure costs onto Rhode Island ratepayers.

Accordingly, this bill requires that the owner of a data center cover the costs of any electric generation, transmission, or distribution upgrades necessary to serve their facilities. It also establishes reporting and oversight related to water use and allows state regulators to require conservation or recycling plans where appropriate.

These guardrails help to ensure responsible resource management as this industry develops. For these reasons the Rhode Island AFL-CIO, supports House Bill 7331 and we respectfully urge the Committee to support its passage.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Erica A. Hammond'.

Erica A. Hammond  
Legislative Director, Rhode Island AFL-CIO

