



April 7, 2026

The Honorable Joseph J. Solomon, Jr., Chairman
House Corporations Committee
State House
Providence, RI 02903

Re: H.7331, An Act Relating to Public Utilities and Carriers – Public Utilities Commission

Dear Chairman Solomon:

The undersigned members of the Rhode Island Business Coalition write in support of House Bill 7331 and thank Speaker Pro Tempore Kennedy for introducing this legislation. The bill looks to address concerns regarding the resource consumption issues raised by the development of data centers.

The bill would provide the Public Utilities Commission with the authority to require the reasonable costs attributed to the planning, construction, expansion, operation or maintenance of electric generation, transmission, or distribution facilities necessary to serve a data center to be borne by the data center.

Data centers are facilities that house computer systems and associated components such as telecommunications and storage systems to store, process and manage significant amounts of data generated by an increasingly connected digital world. Data centers allow organizations to collect, store, and process data which is a vital function for the healthcare and education industries as well as emergency response systems.

Data and its storage are increasingly becoming central parts of this country's economy. For that reason, the Business Coalition supports H.7695 which will be heard in the Finance Committee and would extend a sales tax exemption to data center equipment to match 42 other states and allow Rhode Island to compete in this market. H.7331 is a responsible regulation to ensure that data centers resource consumption do not burden Rhode Islanders.

Thank you for your consideration of our position on H.7331.

The Rhode Island Business Coalition represents 50 industries and 6,280 businesses that employ 231,200 people throughout Rhode Island.

Sincerely,

Associated Builders and Contractors – Rhode Island Chapter

East Greenwich Chamber of Commerce

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Rhode Island Staffing Association

cc. House Corporations Committee members