



April 7, 2026

The Honorable Joseph J. Solomon, Jr.  
Chairman, House Corporations Committee  
Rhode Island State House  
Providence, RI 02908

[HouseCorporations@rilegislature.gov](mailto:HouseCorporations@rilegislature.gov)

SUPPORT H-7871 – Relating to Highways – Relocation of Utility Services

Dear Chairman Solomon:

On behalf of the Greater Providence Chamber of Commerce, I write in support of H 7871, which corrects a cost shift currently impacting Rhode Island utility customers.

A 2022 change to R.I.G.L. §24-8.1-2 reduced reimbursement for utility relocations tied to highway projects from 100% to 50%, shifting costs once covered by federal funding onto local ratepayers. As a result, Rhode Island Energy estimates customers have already absorbed approximately \$8 million in additional costs—costs that could otherwise be offset through federal highway dollars.

H 7871 restores full reimbursement and ensures these projects are funded as intended, rather than increasing costs for Rhode Island businesses and residents. At a time of continued energy affordability concerns, this is a straightforward and necessary fix.

I respectfully urge the Committee to support and advance H 7871. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Laurie White".

Laurie White  
President  
Greater Providence Chamber of Commerce