



May 5, 2026

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

Re: **Opposed to HB 8219 – An Act Relating to Insurance – Rhode Island Insurance Market Protection Act**

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 opposition to 8219.

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."

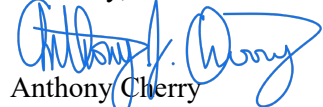
The General Assembly should continue to support and build upon the critical investments Rhode Island has already made in renewable energy, including solar and wind. At the same time, we must not limit our options, especially during the current national political environment. Renewable energy development is limited, and as our energy demands continue to grow we should be work towards supplementally our energy generation needs. Ensuring a reliable, affordable, and resilient energy system requires a diversified portfolio that includes solar, wind, geothermal, nuclear, and natural gas.

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The proposed legislation would only set us behind in achieving more affordable energy and restrict work opportunities for our members and our contractors from growing their small businesses. The State should not be restricting how we procure our energy but advocate for policies that bring more energy producing industries to Rhode Islanders. 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,



Anthony Cherry
Assistant Executive Director
Build Rhode Island