



AMERICAN COUNCIL OF ENGINEERING COMPANIES
of Rhode Island

DATE: March 11, 2025

TO: Chair David A. Bennett, Committee Members

FROM: American Council of Engineering Companies of Rhode Island (ACEC-RI)

RE: Building Decarbonization Act of 2025 – HB 5493 Request for Amendment

Dear Chairman Bennett, First Vice Chair Phillips, Second Vice Chair Carson and Committee members:

ACEC-RI, which represents over fifty (50) engineering firms in Rhode Island employing 800 plus Rhode Island workers who provide engineering services to the State of Rhode Island, formally requests that the following amendment be added to HB. 5493, on page 10, line 15:

“The provisions of section (b)(1) and (b)(2) shall not apply to design professionals”.

This bill requires that an awarding authority ensure that each contractor or subcontractor involved in new building construction or alteration projects over five million dollars (\$5,000,000) have or be affiliated with an approved registered apprenticeship program and that not less than fifteen (15%) of the total hours worked by contractors’ and subcontractors’ employees be completed by apprentices in apprenticeship programs. The bill does not define contractor or subcontractor and could be interpreted to include design professionals like engineering firms. Engineering firms employ licensed professionals and are licensed through specific licensing examinations and educational requirements and do not have apprenticeship programs. Apprenticeship programs are generally associated with construction services and services provided by various construction trades and not design services provided by engineering firms. For this reason, design professionals including engineering firms should be excluded from this requirement. Accordingly, ACEC-RI requests that the bill be amended to add the language of exclusion above.

ACEC-RI appreciates your thoughtful consideration of our amendment, and respectfully urge you to amend House Bill 5493 as requested.

Sincerely,
/s/ Dorothy S. Davison
Executive Director
ACEC-RI

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