



March 12, 2025

Hon. David A. Bennett
Chair
House Committee on Environment and Natural Resources
HouseEnvironmentandNaturalResources@rilegislature.gov

Re: HB 5493 – An act relating health and safety – Building Decarbonization Act of 2025.

Dear Chair Bennett,

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 representing an approximately 10,000 local tradesmen and women. On behalf of our organization, I write in **SUPPORT** of the above referred to legislation for the reasons that follow.

By requiring our state-owned and state-occupied facilities to measure and report their monthly energy usage will be useful when renovations are needed. Once the necessary data is collected, and the fiscal impact of bringing our outdated state-owned/occupied buildings, which are several decades old, the compliance work will need to begin. This means the renovating process will lead to any opportunity to create new jobs for the local men and women of the Rhode Island Building Trades. From smaller to larger jobs, the unionized construction industry, including our contracting partners, can perform the needed work to make our buildings more efficient.

The legislation also includes labor standards to ensure contractors are utilizing an approved registered apprenticeship program. By requiring registered apprenticeship utilization on associated projects, the State of Rhode Island is prioritizing the importance of training the next generation of trades men and women.

Thank you for your attention to this correspondence. Please contact the undersigned if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

A blue ink signature of Anthony Cherry, written in a cursive style.

Anthony Cherry
Assistant Executive Director
Build Rhode Island