

**INTERNATIONAL BROTHERHOOD OF  
ELECTRICAL WORKERS**



**LOCAL 99**

**Joseph L. Walsh, Jr.**  
Business Manager

**Wayne A. Tait**  
President

3.25.26

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Representative David Bennett  
Chairman, House Environment and Natural Resources Committee  
RI State House  
82 Smith Street  
Providence, RI 02903  
VIA Email: [HouseEnvironmentandNaturalResources@rilegislature.gov](mailto:HouseEnvironmentandNaturalResources@rilegislature.gov)

**RE: H-7344 Support House Resolution Creating A Permanent Commission On Climate Change Impacts And Solutions**

Dear Chairman Bennett,

As Business Manager of the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers Local Union 99, I represent over 1000 men and women who provide their skills through our vast network of signatory contractors in the Electrical Industry in the State of Rhode Island and nearby Massachusetts. I also serve as one, if not the only, voice of the men and women who are not yet fortunate enough to be represented by an electrical labor union in the state of Rhode Island. All of the aforementioned are humans that rely on mother earth.

I am writing to you today in **support of H-7344**

Growing up in the Ocean State, I often like to fascinate people with the fact of our 400 miles of coastline in our little state. Besides the occasional hurricane erosion, we live in a bit of a bubble when thinking about climate change. Many others in the USA and globally are not so fortunate. The day will come when our luck will run out unless we act.

Too often rather than face the facts that what is now; may not always be, we tend to kick the can of public policy down the road. The reality of a changing climate is well beyond speculation, it is an accepted fact by over 97% of the scientists that have peer-reviewed literature on the subject. It is always refreshing to see forward thinking elected officials who are eager to proactively engage in the conversation and work towards solutions now. As my mentor used to tell me "Noah did not wait for it to start to rain before he built the arc".

At some point in time, it may become too late to reverse the situation we are stampeding towards however, I believe determined people will work towards solutions which makes the world just a bit better every day. Keeping an eye on the ultimate goal is critical so we may leave behind a world that resembles the world we grew up in and not one we would dread to see. This commission will keep the conversation fresh, alive and productive which is critical when facing the largest crisis in recorded history.

In conclusion, we **strongly support H-7344** for the reasons stated above.

Sincerely,

Joseph L. Walsh, Jr / Business Manager  
cc:  
Lou Mansolillo / Committee Clerk  
Committee Members  
Paul MacDonald / IBEW Local 99 Lobbyist  
BuildRI  
RI AFL-CIO