



April 29, 2025

Hon. Marvin Abney  
Chair  
House Committee on Finance  
State House  
Providence, RI 02903

**Re: Support for H-5203; Relating to Education – School Funds and Property**

Dear Chair Abney,

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 our organization, I write to **SUPPORT** the above referred to legislation for the reasons that follow.

This legislation will help move Rhode Island closer to realizing the goals of the Act on Climate initiative passed by the General Assembly in 2021. This legislation will make meaningful investments into constructing a healthier, safer, and learning environment for our students. Replacing our outdated energy systems will help with long term savings on operating costs, while the construction of the new energy systems, as well as greener & healthier schools will create thousands of good middle-class jobs.

BuildRI thanks Representative Cortvriend for requiring strong labor standards on all school construction projects under this legislation from project labor agreements and vital apprenticeship utilization. Having projects over \$10 million construction valuation conduct an independent feasibility study to determine if the school should be built under a project labor agreement will be beneficial for all parties. Project labor agreements ensure the municipalities have their schools built on-time and on-budget, while ensuring union workers are building the next generation of education facilities.

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

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads 'Anthony J. Cherry'. The signature is stylized with a large, sweeping 'A' and a cursive 'Cherry'.

**Anthony J. Cherry**  
*Assistant Executive Director*