

**INTERNATIONAL BROTHERHOOD OF
ELECTRICAL WORKERS**



LOCAL 99

Joseph L. Walsh, Jr.
Business Manager

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May 6, 2025

Marvin L. Abney
Chair, House Finance Committee
Rhode Island State House
Providence, RI 02903
rep-abney@rilegislature.gov

Re: Support for H-6097; An Act Relating to State Affairs and Government -- Rhode Island Commerce Corporation -- Qualified Data Centers Location Incentive

Dear Chairman Abney,

As Business Manager of the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers Local Union 99, I represent over 1000 Men and Women who provide their skills for our Signatory Contractors in the Electrical Industry in the State of Rhode Island and nearby Massachusetts. I also am one of, if not the only voice for the men and women who are not yet fortunate enough to be represented by an electrical labor union in the state of Rhode Island.

I wish to express our strong support for **H-6097** for the following reasons:

As we all know, data is the life-blood of literally nearly all we do in every business, government entity, financial institution, healthcare institution and transportation and infrastructure network. It is even a necessity for the average person in the United States storing pictures of their cats and blueberry crumble. That amount of data transmitted and stored in today's connected world is almost unfathomable and the need for an inexhaustible amount of data centers will be a continual moving target.

The location of data centers and their construction is a weekly conversation IBEW leaders are having across this great Nation. Many of these projects are constructed in areas of the Country where similar tax incentive programs detailed in this bill are already offered to attract the developers. Some are also unfortunately built in areas of exploited labor and poor environmental controls.

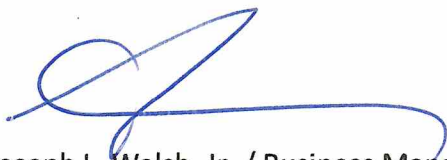
The passage of this bill will improve the attraction for developers to construct the critical facilities that are literally necessary for the day-to-day operation of commerce and life in Rhode Island and the United States of America. Encouraging this construction in Rhode Island will also provide potentially life long opportunities for the men and women who forge their careers in construction. The development of these data centers will also provide greater control of our most sensitive data by maintaining the data not only domestically but also potentially right here at home.

Another exciting possibility will be the ability to offset some of the energy consumption with renewable energy utilizing the roofs of the facilities. It is an absolute fact that data centers will be built, but the other less comfortable fact is many of them will be utilizing power from the more than 200 coal fired power houses across the Country. Rhode Island once again has the opportunity to show the rest of the Nation we can do things better.

By understanding the treasure we have in this State, not only with our care for the earth but also in our caring for those who live their lives building the connected world that surrounds us all, it is easy to see the difference the legislature can make for the betterment of all by advancing this bill.

In conclusion, the skilled men and women of IBEW Local Union 99 respectfully request your sincere consideration and passage of this most important bill, **H-6097**.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Joseph L. Walsh, Jr.', with a stylized flourish extending from the end.

Joseph L. Walsh, Jr. / Business Manager

cc:

Christopher O'Brien / Committee Clerk

Committee Members

RI AFL-CIO

Paul Macdonald / IBEW Local Union 99 lobbyist

BuildRI

RI Building Trades