



May 5, 2025

Hon. Marvin Abney
Chairman
House Finance Committee
State House
82 Smith Street
Providence, RI 02903
slegislation@rilegislature.gov

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

Dear Chairman 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.

Rhode Island is lagging the rest of the country in terms of establishing a "data center industry." There is not an industry in Rhode Island that does not heavily rely on the storage of critical and sensitive data. Build Rhode Island, and our partners, fully support Representative Finkelman initiative in establishing a tax incentive program that looks to establish and grow our own data center industry.

The physical structures that support the data centers are large and complex, which means constructing them will lead to the creation of thousands of new jobs per new location. Even though this is an emerging industry, the men and women of the Rhode Island Building Trades already have the necessary skill set required to build out these data center facilities. Annually, in partnership together, the Rhode Island Building Trades and their contracting associations invest over \$6 million in continuing training. This investment ensures that the men and women of the Building Trades are properly licensed and skilled to perform the work needed.

To be consistent with other incentives that the Commerce Corporation is authorized to issue, we ask the sponsor and the committee to amend this bill to require all companies receiving a qualified data center incentive pay construction workers on these projects the wages and benefits required under chapter 37 of title 17, and also require contractors and subcontractors on these projects to also file certified payrolls on a monthly basis for all work completed in the preceding month on a uniform form prescribed by the director of labor and training.

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".

Anthony J. Cherry
Assistant Executive Director
Build Rhode Island