

Michael F. Sabitoni
President

RHODE ISLAND

Scott Duhamel
Secretary-Treasurer



BUILDING TRADES

David Langlais
Vice President

William Beaudry
Sergeant at Arms

May 21, 2025

Hon. Marvin Abney
Chair
House Committee on Finance
HouseFinance@rilegislature.gov

Re: Opposed to HB 5777; An Act Relating to Highways – Rhode Island Turnpike and Bridge Authority

Dear Chair Abney,

The Rhode Island Building & Construction Trades Council represents seventeen (17) local unions and approximately 10,000 members. On behalf of our members and our leadership team, I write in opposition of the above referred to legislation for the reasons that follow.

The funding generated from “Rhode Works” program has put Rhode Island on the pathway to fixing our structurally deficient bridges. Will the uncertainty around federal funding, Rhode Island needs to stay the course and continue the Rhode Works program in order to ensure the structural integrity of our state’s bridges.

Having safe and reliable infrastructure establishes a robust economy as residents have the ability to shop local throughout the state. This program also creates hundreds of construction job opportunities for the local tradesmen and women, which pay middle-class wages and benefits. The Rhode Works program is good for safety, and good for the economy.

We respectfully ask you to oppose HB 5777 to ensure Rhode Islanders can safely transverse our roads and bridges. Thank you for your continued support of the Rhode Works Program. Thank you for your attention to this correspondence. Please contact the undersigned if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

Michael F. Sabitoni
President, Rhode Island Building and Construction Trades Council
General Secretary-Treasurer, Laborers’ International Union of North America