



May 7, 2026

The Honorable Marvin L. Abney, Chairman
House Finance Committee
State House
Providence, RI 02903

Re: H.7695, An Act Relating to State Affairs and Government – Rhode Island Commerce Corporation

Dear Chairman Abney:

The undersigned members of the Rhode Island Business Coalition write in support of House Bill 7695 and thank Representative Bennett for introducing this legislation. The bill would create incentives through the Rhode Island Commerce Corporation for qualified data centers to locate in Rhode Island.

Data centers are facilities that house computer systems and associated components such as telecommunications and storage systems to store, process and manage significant amounts of data generated by an increasingly connected digital world. Data centers allow organizations to collect, store, and process data which is a vital function for the healthcare and education industries as well as emergency response systems.

Thirty-nine states have enacted laws to exempt data centers from various tax obligations including sales, use, property, occupation, service, and/or income taxes, including our neighboring states. In 2024, Connecticut enacted legislation similar to H.7695 with their program operated by the Connecticut Commission of Economic and Community Development. In addition, Massachusetts enacted legislation exempting all sales and use tax on data center equipment, data center software, electricity used by a data center and data center construction costs.

Data and its storage are increasingly becoming central parts of this country's economy. Rhode Island cannot afford to remain uncompetitive for these investments. H.7696 provides incentives to attract large-scale data centers to Rhode Island.

The Rhode Island Business Coalition represents 50 industries and 6,280 businesses that employ 231,200 people throughout Rhode Island.

Thank you for your consideration of our position on H.7695.

Sincerely,

David Chenevert, Chairman, Rhode Island Business Coalition

Associated Builders and Contractors – Rhode Island Chapter

East Greenwich Chamber of Commerce

Greater Newport Chamber of Commerce

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Rhode Island Bankers Association

Rhode Island Hospitality Association

Rhode Island Small Business Economic Summit Regulations Committee

Rhode Island Small Business Economic Summit Tax and Budget Committee

Rhode Island Staffing Association

TechNet

cc. House Finance Committee members