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

Re: Support for H-7695; An Act Relating to State Affairs and Government -- Rhode Island Commerce Corporation –

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 through our vast network of signatory contractors in the Electrical Industry in the State of Rhode Island and nearby Massachusetts. I also serve as one, if not the only, voice of 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 am writing to you today in **support of H-7695**

Data Centers are significant drivers of employment for electricians across our Nation. The developers tend to understand the need for industry standard wages, benefit and working conditions which provides respectable employment for members such as the men and women of Local 99.

We of course also know that there is some concern with the cost to the municipalities and environmental concerns in the news as of late. I am excited that Revity Energy is the developer who has chosen to branch out into this market. As you may be aware, Revity worked with Labor and Environmentalists to forge the Solar Siting bill over several years. I would imagine you know, any corporation willingly engaging in environmental concerns is a rare thing to see in today's world. Keeping with that vision, Revity has also addressed not only the environmental concerns but also the cost to others by also supporting H-7695.

Most of us have been impacted directly or indirectly by data breaches, myself included. Building a modern Data Center locally that can be utilized by banks, universities and medical facilities reduces the risk of data breaches that can happen when data is stored in another state or country. The facts are, data centers are being built and will continue to be built due to the demand of Americans that are dictated by our actions.

It is a much better option to support a local developer, using local people to build in a socially responsible and environmentally conscious manner here at home than sending the jobs and revenue to another location where we would have no input or control of what was built or by whom.

In conclusion, I believe caring about the environment is not now, nor has it ever been, a "not in my back yard question", it is a global question. Not approving this incentive will simply send the project elsewhere and remove any oversight that the majority of our elected officials have proven to be important to them and their constituents. With that, I again state out **support for H-7695**

Sincerely,

Joseph L. Walsh, Jr / Business Manager

Cc:
Committee Members
Paul Macdonald / IBEW Local 99 Lobbyist
BuildRI
RI AFL-CIO