

January 29, 2026

EMAIL ONLY

Hon. Carol H. McEntee
Chairperson, House Judiciary Committee
Rhode Island General Assembly
Email: rep-mcentee@rilegislature.gov

RE: OPPOSITION TO 2026-H 7033 -- COURTS AND CIVIL PROCEDURE -- PROCEDURE GENERALLY -- JUDGMENTS, ORDERS, AND DECREES

Dear Chairperson McEntee,

This letter is sent by the undersigned in my capacity as Governmental Affairs Counsel for the New England Mechanical Contractors Association ("New England MCA").¹

New England MCA **opposes** passage of this bill, *which would substantially reduce the post judgment interest rate from the current 12% to a floating one-year United States treasury bill rate (which is currently only about 3.5%)*. Common sense dictates that reducing the post judgment interest rate reduces the incentive to comply with a monetary judgment and encourages post judgment activity that prolongs the dispute, including appeal and judicial enforcement proceedings. This is particularly true when, as now, market interest rates substantially exceed the treasury bill rate, insofar as judgment debtors, who can earn more interest in the market than is accruing on the debt, have less incentive to comply with the judgment and pay their lawful debts. Accordingly, this legislation would provide an incentive not to pay a judgment creditor, not to expedite resolution of personal injury cases, and not to expedite payment on construction projects. Rather, the debtor would be incentivized to invest their money, as opposed to timely paying their debts to those lawfully owed money.

Many New England MCA members, although not all, are subcontractors who would be particularly adversely impacted by general contractors incentivized to delay or withhold payment. Regardless, whether as a general contractor or subcontractor, New England MCA members not only do not support legislation that would incentivize delay in payment or non-payment of debts, but the organization has uniformly supported prompt payment legislation in this and other states.

For all the foregoing reasons, New England MCA strongly **opposes** passage of this legislation.

Very truly yours,



Richard A. Sinapi, ras@sinapilaw.com

RAS/ras

cc: Client (email only)
Hon. K. Joseph Shekarchi, Speaker of the House (via email only) (rep-shekarchi@rilegislature.gov)
Members of House Judiciary Committee (via email only) (HouseJudiciary@rilegislature.gov)

¹ New England MCA represents union signatory commercial and industrial heating, ventilation, air conditioning, and process piping contractors in Massachusetts, Maine, New Hampshire, Rhode Island, and Vermont. It has over 80 contractor members throughout New England. New England MCA's Rhode Island members include Aero Mechanical, Inc., Arden Engineering Constructors, LLC, Delta Mechanical, Hart Engineering Corporation, and Nexgen Mechanical. Every New England MCA member is signatory to one or more collective bargaining agreements with the local construction industry trades. Our members have worked as contractors and subcontractors on numerous public and private works projects in Rhode Island, including major construction at URI, Rhode Island Resource Recovery, Providence College, and Amgen. During periods of major commercial construction, New England MCA member contractors may employ as many as 700 Local 51 plumbers and pipefitters in Rhode Island. *The views expressed in this letter do not necessarily represent the position of each individual member.*