

April 25, 2026

The Honorable Carol Hagan McEntee
Chairwoman, House Judiciary Committee
Rhode Island State House
Providence, Rhode Island 02908

RE: H-8464 – Relating to Highways – Construction and Maintenance of State Roads – Traffic Control, Use of Crash Truck, Cameras

Dear Chairwoman McEntee:

On behalf of Rhode Island Energy, I write in **opposition** to H-8464. While perhaps well intended as a roadway safety measure, **this legislation could have a significant impact on utility roadway work and add millions in new ratepayer costs** by requiring all contractors performing work on any project for the Rhode Island Department of Transportation (RIDOT), the Rhode Island Turnpike and Bridge Authority (RITBA), or any other road or bridge work in this state to have a traffic monitoring plan and an attenuator truck with traffic monitoring cameras on site.

Rhode Island Energy provides essential energy services to more than 770,000 customers across the state through the delivery of electricity and natural gas. Our team of 1,300+ union and non-union employees is dedicated to helping Rhode Island customers and communities thrive, while supporting the transition to a cleaner energy future in a safe, reliable, and affordable manner.

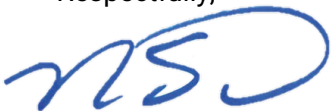
The proposed legislation – particularly its application to “any other road or bridge work in this state” – could be construed to expand existing statutory requirements (§24-8-4.2) to virtually all utility-related roadwork regardless of state or municipal control or purpose. **This could affect virtually every job conducted by Rhode Island Energy crews and contractors in the field, increasing project costs and resource burdens that are ultimately borne by utility customers.** Moreover, the requirement to file traffic monitoring plans for every impacted job would also be extremely challenging and resource-intensive, especially given that a significant portion of our work can be unplanned, short-term, and/or emergency in nature.

In closing, our Company is not equipped to meet these requirements today and, if advanced as drafted, this legislation will lead to significant new costs for electric and natural gas customers throughout Rhode Island.

We welcome the opportunity to discuss these concerns with the bill’s sponsors in more detail.

Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Respectfully,



Nicholas S. Ucci
Director of Government Affairs

CC: The Honorable Members of the House Judiciary Committee
The Honorable Alex Marszalkowski, Rhode Island House of Representatives