

March 5, 2024

The Honorable Arthur J. Corvese, Chairman  
House Committee on Labor  
Honorable Members of the House Labor Committee  
State House  
Providence, RI 02903



*Subject: House Bill 7650*

Dear Chairman Corvese and Honorable Members of the House Labor Committee:

On behalf of the member companies of The Rhode Island Chapter of Associated General Contractors (RIAGC), I write regarding House Bill 7650.

RIAGC member companies are proud to work closely with the building trades, construction partners, and regulatory agencies and entities such as the National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health (NIOSH), the Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA), the Rhode Island Department of Labor and Training (RIDLT), and the Rhode Island Department of Health (RIDOH) to keep workers safe from extreme heat and cold, as well as other jobsite hazards. Indeed, Rhode Island's construction industry has long been a leader in developing best of class safety programs, training, and protocols. The utmost priority is the health and safety of construction workers.

With significant regulatory oversight in place for the construction industry, RIAGC member companies address **all** safety issues, including protecting workers from excessive heat or cold. If construction workers feel there are unsafe conditions or have concerns, they are trained and encouraged to immediately notify their supervisor or on-site safety personnel – or report unsafe conditions to OSHA and/or RIDLT. Additionally, just last year, President Biden asked the Department of Labor (DOL) to ramp up enforcement to protect workers from extreme heat.

With such robust regulations in place with several oversight agencies that currently work proactively and collaboratively together, we are concerned this legislation may complicate the current processes and oversight for construction safety. Without consideration for current safety protocols or industry best practices, this legislation could undermine effective and efficient safety programs and regulations.

The health and safety of hardworking tradesmen and women and all individuals working on a jobsite is a paramount concern for both labor and management. However, we ask the committee to hold this legislation for further study and wait for pending guidance from the U.S. Department of Labor regarding this issue.

As always, RIAGC welcomes the opportunity to collaborate with the state and discuss additional efforts that will realize the goals of this legislation.

Thank you in advance for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Kerrie Bennett  
Executive Director