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February 12, 2025

Hon. Arthur Corvese
Chairperson
House Committee on Labor
HouseLabor@rilegislature.gov
State House
Providence, RI 02903

Re: **H 5028; An Act Relating to Public Property and Works – Labor and Payment of Debts by Contractors**

Dear Chair Corvese,

BuildRI is a domestic non-profit trade association comprised of four (4) contractor associations (the Labor Relations Division of the RI Chapter of the Associated General Contractors, the New England Mechanical Contractors' Ass'n, the RI Mason Contractors' Ass'n, and the RI and Southeast MA Chapter of the National Electrical Contractors' Ass'n), and seventeen (17) Local Trade Unions comprised of approximately 10,000 local tradesmen and women.

Under current state law, any public works project over \$1,000 awarded by the state, its agencies, and/or any municipality is required to pay construction workers working on the project the local "prevailing wage" rate. *See*, RI Gen. Law § 3-13-1 *et seq.* The General Assembly supports prevailing wage rates because it promotes a livable wage for tradesmen and women. Unfortunately, however, some state agencies are exempt from this requirement. H-5028 ensures that prevailing wage rates are applied to all government entities by including all the government entities subject to § 37-13-1 thereby ensuring that all tradesmen and women working on all public or quasi-public projects are paid a livable wage.

Thank you for your attention to this correspondence. Please contact the undersigned if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

Anthony Cherry
Assistant Executive Director

