



Climate Jobs Rhode Island  
1540 Pontiac Ave Suite A,  
Cranston, RI 02920

February 12, 2025

The Honorable Arthur J. Corvese  
House Committee on Labor  
Rhode Island State House  
Providence, Rhode Island 02903

**Re: Support H-5188**

Dear Chair Corvese,

Climate Jobs Rhode Island (CJRI) is a coalition of more than thirty (30) labor unions, environmental, and community organizations committed to working together to make Rhode Island a national leader in the development of a resilient 21st century economy through a Just Transition, that centers our frontline communities and frontline workers.

Our members range from those who represent the frontline workers who build, repair, and maintain Rhode Island's critical infrastructure and energy systems, to community groups like the United Way of RI and Childhood Lead Action Project; to environmental organizations like The Nature Conservancy, and Clean Water Action.

We write in strong support for House bill 5188. This bill reinforces the Corrosion Prevention and Mitigation Work requirements. The updates to this law ensure that the enforcement mechanisms are clearly defined and that the industry best practices are upheld to protect both workers and the integrity of public infrastructure.

The changes added establish a much needed enforcement structure within the Department of Labor and Training. It sets procedures for investigating and addressing violations and imposes penalties for noncompliance. Without these enforcement measures, the existing law lacks the necessary mechanisms to ensure adherence to critical safety and quality standards.

Furthermore, extending these requirements to all public works projects is a crucial step toward maintaining uniformity in safety standards for all covered projects. Passage of H-5188 will prevent the exploitation of loopholes that undermine the intent of this law.

Corrosion prevention and mitigation are essential for the longevity and safety of infrastructure. The enforcement of trained and certified workers is critical to preventing structural failures and

environmental hazards. By reinforcing compliance through these new provisions, Rhode Island can better protect its workers, the public, and its investments in infrastructure.

We urge the Committee to support these amendments to Section 37-25-1 as these clarifications and enforcements are not just regulatory- they are vital safeguards to ensure corrosion prevention and mitigation work is performed with the highest level of skill, accountability, and safety.

House bill 5188 may seem minor or redundant to some, but it is an integral step to ensure the quality and reliability of our infrastructure. Thank you, Representative Corvese and bill sponsors, for introducing this important legislation and thank you members of the House Committee on Labor for the opportunity to provide testimony on its behalf. We urge you to pass H-5188 in order to uphold the integrity of Rhode Island's public works standards. The importance of corrosion and mitigation standards and worker safety cannot be left up for interpretation.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Aislinn Hanley". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Aislinn Hanley  
*Program Director, Climate Jobs Rhode Island*