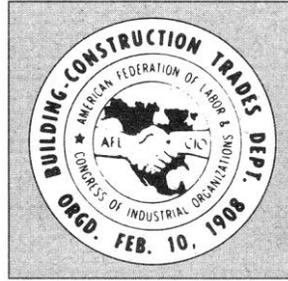


Michael F. Sabitoni
President

RHODE ISLAND



BUILDING TRADES

Scott Duhamel
Secretary/Treasurer

February 12, 2025

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

Re: Re: H-5366; An Act Relating to Labor and Labor Relations — Payment of Wages

Dear Chairman Corvese,

The Rhode Island Building and Construction Trades Council is comprised of sixteen (16) local unions and approximately 10,000 local tradesmen and women. On behalf of our organization, I write in **SUPPORT** of the above referred to legislation for the reasons that follow.

In years past the Rhode Island General Assembly has passed legislation aimed at protecting workers from illicit practices, which we sincerely appreciate. This legislation would allow individuals employed by unscrupulous construction companies who have experienced wage theft to recover the wages owed to them when their direct employer cannot (i.e. because they are usually insolvent) by permitting the employee to hold the prime contractor responsible for the payment of unpaid wages, particularly since the contractors ultimately benefited from this unpaid work.

The prime contractor on a job site is responsible for ensuring the work is done safely, and to make sure all workers are appropriately hired and managed by their subcontractors. Because the prime contractor hires subcontractors to perform the work, they should be held responsible for the payment of wages if the subcontractor does not pay their workers' wages rightfully owed.

This legislation holds unscrupulous prime contractors and subcontractors accountable and establishes an avenue for employees to pursue civil action if necessary. Accordingly, our organization urges passage of H 5366. Please contact the undersigned if you have any questions. Thank you for your consideration on this matter.

Sincerely,

Michael F. Sabitoni

President, Rhode Island Building and Construction Trades Council