



Hon. Arthur Corvese
c/o HouseLabor@rilegislature.gov
Chairman
House Committee on Labor
State House
Providence, RI 02903

March 18, 2026

Re: Support for H-7972; An Act Relating to Labor and Labor Relations—Project Labor Agreements

Dear Chair Corvese,

We write to express our strong support HB 7972, which eases the implementation of a project labor agreement on a state-funded project. Our company has a long record of performing high-quality work on complex public projects across the state. The inclusion of a PLA on public sector projects make it attractive for us to bid, as it ensures a fair, stable, and efficient framework that benefits both the project owner and participating contractors.

Our local contractors have a long and proven record of delivering high-quality work on complex public projects, and we are confident that projects utilizing a PLA framework will be no exception. In fact, the inclusion of a PLA makes projects especially attractive to responsible, experienced contractors by ensuring a fair, stable, and efficient environment for all participants.

A Project Labor Agreement promotes a level playing field among all bidders by establishing consistent wage standards, benefits, and working conditions across the job. This helps prevent undercutting by irresponsible actors and ensures that all contractors—union and signatory alike—compete based on skill, quality, and performance.

Additionally, PLAs reduce administrative burdens by providing a single, uniform labor framework. This allows contractors to focus resources on delivering high-quality work, while minimizing the risks of jurisdictional disputes, labor interruptions, and worker misclassification. Key provisions such as no-strike/no-lockout clauses and expedited grievance procedures provide further assurance that projects will be completed on time and within budget.

We respectfully urge the General Assembly to continue supporting policies that enable and encourage the use of Project Labor Agreements on appropriate public projects. Doing so will help ensure quality outcomes, fair competition, and reliable project delivery for the people of Rhode Island.

Thank you for your consideration and continued leadership.

Sincerely,

Michael Busam
Business Leader, VP
Gilbane Building Co.