March 18, 2026

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

Re: H.7959, An Act Relating to Labor and Labor Relations – Payment of Wages

Dear Chairman Corvese,

The undersigned members of the Rhode Island Business Coalition write in opposition to the passage of H.7959, An Act Relating to Labor and Labor Relations – Payment of Wages.

The first section of H.7959 changes the requirements placed on employers when distributing statements of earnings. Today employers must include the hours worked, deductions from gross earnings and an explanation of those deductions. H.7959 adds a myriad of additional items, including deduction explanations in an "understandable language and form", the employer's address and name, and piece meal information if pay is based on quantity. The term "understandable" could be deemed to mean an employee's fluent language.

We appreciate the sponsor making some changes to this legislation since it was first introduced and welcome the opportunity to work with him to address some of the issues referenced above. However, many of the requirements included in this legislation were enacted as part of H.5679, Substitute A as amended that passed last year. This new law just took effect on January 1.

Thank you for your consideration of our position on this legislation.

Sincerely,

David Chenevert, Chairman, Rhode Island Business Coalition

Associated Builders and Contractors – Rhode Island Chapter

National Federation of Independent Business

Propane Gas Association of New England

The Rhode Island Business Coalition represents 50 industries and 6,280 businesses that employ 231,200 people throughout Rhode Island.

Rhode Island Bankers Association

Rhode Island Builders Association

Rhode Island Hospitality Association

Rhode Island Marine Trades Association

Rhode Island Staffing Association

Rhode Island Small Business Economic Summit Regulations Subcommittee

Rhode Island Small Business Summit Tax and Budget Committee

cc. House Labor Committee members