



March 18, 2026

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

Re: **HB 7960; 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.

On behalf of BuildRI and our partners, I write in support of HB 7960, which would eliminate prescribed timelines for hearing and determination in certain enforcement actions before the Department of Labor and Training (DLT), aligning these processes with more reasonable and effective practices.

The Department of Labor and Training plays a critical role in holding unscrupulous contractors accountable, particularly those who fail to pay workers their rightful wages or who misclassify employees as independent contractors. These violations undermine both workers and law-abiding businesses across Rhode Island.

Unfortunately, DLT must investigate dozens of cases each year due to the persistence of the underground construction economy in our state. These cases are often complex and require significant time and diligence to build properly. Investigations frequently involve gathering and reviewing pay stubs, bank statements, certified wage sheets, and witness testimony to ensure that enforcement actions are accurate and defensible.

HB 7960 represents a practical and necessary adjustment that will strengthen enforcement efforts and better protect Rhode Island workers. I respectfully urge your support for this legislation.

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

Sincerely,

Anthony Cherry
Assistant Executive Director