



STATE OF RHODE ISLAND

Department of Labor and Training

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Daniel J. McKee
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Matthew D. Weldon
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March 17, 2026

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

Dear Chair Corvese:

I write today in support of House Bill 7961 introduced by Representative Bennett. This bill extends legal responsibility to general contractors for subcontractor wage violations across all aspects of a construction project. The bill also outlines a notice and cure process, allowing contractors an opportunity to address violations, while setting reasonable parameters on liability.

The Department of Labor and Training believes that this is a critical step toward addressing wage theft in the construction industry, where complex subcontracting structures can make it difficult for workers to recover unpaid wages. By extending accountability to general contractors, the bill helps ensure that workers have a viable path to recovery and promotes greater oversight and responsibility throughout the contracting chain.

Additionally, we believe this bill will encourage stronger compliance practices and more diligent vetting of subcontractors, ultimately contributing to a more level playing field for law-abiding employers. By reinforcing fair labor standards, the bill supports both workers and responsible businesses operating in Rhode Island.

Thank you for your consideration of this legislation. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me or our Chief of Government Affairs, Keith Murray, keith.murray@dlt.ri.gov or 401-462-8021.

Sincerely,

Matthew D. Weldon
Director

CC: Honorable Members of the House Committee on Labor
The Honorable David A. Bennett
Nicole McCarty, Esq. Chief Legal Counsel to the Speaker of the House