



Joseph L. Walsh, Jr.
Business Manager

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3.17.26

Representative Arthur J. Corvese
Chairman House Labor Committee
RI State House
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Providence, RI 02903
VIA Email: HouseLabor@rilegislature.gov

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RE: Support H-7972 AN ACT RELATING TO PUBLIC PROPERTY AND WORKS -- STATE PURCHASES

Dear Chairman Corvese,

As Business Manager of the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers Local Union 99, I represent over 1000 men and women who provide their skills through our vast network of signatory contractors in the Electrical Industry in the State of Rhode Island and nearby Massachusetts. I also serve as one, if not the only, voice of the men and women who are not yet fortunate enough to be represented by an electrical labor union in the state of Rhode Island.

I am writing to you today in **support of H-7972**

Project labor agreements have been proven to be a benefit to the community not only in statistic analysis through feasibility studies, but also in actual real world practice.

Community after community see the importance of building projects under a project labor agreement. One concern seems to present itself fairly often and must be addressed. That concern is the cost of a feasibility study and the time to perform such. In the grand vision of the project, neither is a major impediment however it is an impediment that is unnecessary. Decision makers who are educated on the value and protections for the taxpayer when a project is built under a project labor agreement should not be forced to engage in a process that will only result in what they already know.

In the past 20 years, there have been more than 50 projects that were required to be evaluated under a feasibility study to assure a project labor agreement makes sense for the community. Of those more than 50 independent studies, every study has come back to recommend a project labor agreement. None came back negative.

This bill does not remove the decision whether or not use a project labor agreement, that choice remains with the municipality or the state depending on who owns the project.

What the bill does do is remove the cost and time frame needed to perform a feasibility study. Time and money are the two biggest factors in any public project so any reduction in both is a win for the community.

In conclusion, we **strongly support H-7972** for the reasons stated above.

Sincerely,

Joseph L. Walsh, Jr / Business Manager
cc:
Jimmy DeCastro / Committee Clerk
Committee Members
Paul MacDonald / IBEW Local 99 Lobbyist
BuildRI
RI AFL-CIO