



Director's Office

One Capitol Hill | Providence, RI 02908 | (401) 222-2280

March 18, 2026

The Honorable Arthur J. Corvese
Chairperson
House Committee on Labor
Rhode Island State House
82 Smith Street
Providence, RI 02903

Re: House Bill 7972 – An Act Relating To Public Property And Works -- State Purchases

Dear Chairperson Corvese,

Thank you for providing the Department of Administration (“Department”) the opportunity to submit comments in response to House Bill No. 7972, which amends the process for creating and governing project labor agreements (“PLA”).

Under existing practice, state agencies must ask for approval from the Chief Purchasing Officer to conduct a process yielding a recommendation about a PLA, which is then affirmed by the Chief Purchasing Officer. This process follows the framework set forth in the Supreme Court of Rhode Island decision entitled *Associated Builders & Contractors of Rhode Island Inc., et. al. v. Department of Administration* (787 A.2d 1179). This proposed legislation would shift the State from this “opt-in” model to an “opt-out” model where a justification must be approved by the Chief Purchasing Officer if the agency does not require a PLA for a large project over \$25 million with specific characteristics.

The Department has one concern regarding language on page 6, line 13 that requires a written determination to opt-out of a PLA ninety (90) days prior to going out to bid and would instead prefer a timeline of thirty (30) days prior to going out to bid.

The Department appreciates the opportunity to share our comments regarding this legislation with the Committee. If there are any questions, please feel free to contact my office at your convenience.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Rebecca Webber".

Rebecca Webber
Deputy Director for Performance and Projects

cc: The Honorable Members of the House Committee on Labor
The Honorable Evan Shanley
Nicole McCarty, Esq., Chief Legal Counsel to the Speaker of the House
James DeCastro, Committee Clerk