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March 18, 2026

EMAIL ONLY

Hon. Arthur J. Corvese
Chairperson, House Labor Committee
Email: rep-corvese@rilegislature.gov

RE: SUPPORT FOR H 7972 RELATING TO PUBLIC PROPERTY AND WORKS – STATE PURCHASES

Dear Chairman Corvese:

This letter is sent by the undersigned in my capacity as Governmental Affairs Counsel for the New England Mechanical Contractors Association (“New England MCA”).¹ New England MCA **supports** this bill, *which would, among other things, create a presumption for the use of Project Labor Agreements (“PLA”) on local large public works projects.*

The New England MCA supports this legislation quite simply because it has been the uniform experience of our membership that projects constructed under a PLA in this state, both public and private, are well-built and completed safely, on time, and on budget. This is particularly true with respect to the numerous projects at public colleges in this state, including both the University of Rhode Island and Rhode Island College, erected under PLA’s, which were all constructed safely, on time, and on budget. The result is a quality asset constructed consistent with the financial and time expectations of the owner, and a fair and reasonable profit for the general contractor and its subcontractors. Everybody wins. On a public project, this includes the public.

The use of a PLA makes projects especially attractive to responsible, experienced contractors by ensuring a fair, stable, and efficient environment for all participants. A PLA promotes a level playing field among all bidders by establishing consistent wage standards, benefits, and working conditions across the job. This helps prevent undercutting by irresponsible actors and ensures that all contractors—union and signatory alike—compete based on skill, quality, and performance.

Additionally, PLAs reduce administrative burdens by providing a single, uniform labor framework. This allows contractors to focus resources on delivering high-quality work, while minimizing the risks of jurisdictional disputes, labor interruptions, and worker misclassification. Key provisions such as no-strike/no-lockout clauses and expedited grievance procedures provide further assurance that projects will be completed on time and within budget.

¹ New England MCA represents union signatory commercial and industrial heating, ventilation, air conditioning, and process piping contractors in Massachusetts, Maine, New Hampshire, Rhode Island, and Vermont. It has over 80 contractor members throughout New England. New England MCA’s Rhode Island members include Aero Mechanical, Inc., Arden Engineering Constructors, LLC, Delta Mechanical, Hart Engineering Corporation, and Nexgen Mechanical. Every New England MCA member is signatory to one or more collective bargaining agreements with the local construction industry trades. Our members have worked as contractors and subcontractors on numerous public and private works projects in Rhode Island, including major construction at URI, Rhode Island Resource Recovery, Providence College, and Amgen. During periods of major commercial construction, New England MCA member contractors may employ as many as 700 Local 51 plumbers and pipefitters in Rhode Island. *The views expressed in this letter do not necessarily represent the position of each individual member.*

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There is no secret to the success of PLAs on large construction projects in this state or why New England MCA, whose members are typically contractors and/or major subcontractors on such projects, support the use of PLAs on large construction projects. PLAs:

1. Ensure a sufficient, well trained and steady supply of labor for a fixed or predictable cost;
2. Ensure prevailing wage compliance;
3. Protect against work stoppages;
4. Facilitate scheduling of start and stop times and the coordination of work processes and tasks;
5. Promote quick and efficient resolution of jurisdictional and other labor disputes;
6. Promote the continued development of a trained work-force through apprenticeship;
7. Promote workplace safety; and,
8. Promote the use of local contractors and labor.

For all the foregoing reasons, New England MCA strongly supports passage of this legislation..

Very truly yours,



Richard A. Sinapi, ras@sinapilaw.com

RAS/ras

cc: Client (email only)
Hon. K. Joseph Shekarchi, Speaker of the House (via email only(rep-shekarchi@rilegislature.gov))
Members of House Committee on Labor (via email only HouseLabor@rilegislature.gov)