



Joseph L. Walsh, Jr.
Business Manager

Wayne A. Tait
President

3.30.26

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

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RE: Support H-7966 AN ACT RELATING TO HEALTH AND SAFETY -- THE EXTREME TEMPERATURE WORKER PROTECTION ACT

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-7966**

It is far beyond time to respect the value of a workers life. People often will see Sarah McLachlan, even to this day, showing horrible pictures and videos of cold, thirsty, hungry and abused animals on TV accompanied by her 1997 song "Angel". Those awful pictures and videos stir an emotional response in me, and with anyone else with a soul. They also drive us to act. However, witnessing the UPS driver in a 115 degree truck in the summer, because they do not have Air Conditioning, or non-union electricians on a solar field working in below freezing temperatures (IBEW Local 99 has built protections in our Collective Bargaining Agreement) and we think it is just part of the job. I would say that reasonable protections for workers are not only a way to boost productivity and keep workers happy and respected, but also the moral and just action that must be taken.

In conclusion, we **support H-7966** 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